







Taking no chances: a police van holding Belfast men Paul Magee and Michael O'Brien arrives amid heavy security at the court

## Suspected terrorists in court

SECURITY was tight when two men held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, charged with the murder of a special constable and the attempted murder of another, appeared on remand at Arbour Square top-security magistrates' court in east London yesterday.

Three police vehicles accompanied their prison van and armed officers protected its approach as a helicopter circled the court.

Paul Magee, 42, and Michael O'Brien, 28, from Belfast, are accused of murdering Special PC Glenn Goodman and attempting to murder PC Alexander Kelly on June 7, on the A65 near Tadcaster, North Yorkshire.

Magistrates agreed to extend the custody time limit from August 21 to September 3, when the men appear for remand to the Central Crown Court.

## Warning given year ago to crew of ferry where children died

By BILL FROST

SWANSEA Cork Ferries, operators of the Celtic Pride, received warnings from passengers over a year ago about the sewage fumes which killed two sleeping children on an overnight crossing earlier this week. The vessel was back at sea yesterday morning after "minor remedial work" was carried out on the instructions of Irish marine accident investigators.

Stuart Hulse, spokesman for Swansea Cork Ferries, said the work had involved sealing the lavatory in the cabin where the two children

had been sleeping. Further work might be necessary. Katherine Tomlins, 15, and her brother James, 12, were found dead in bed as the ferry neared the Cork coast early on Wednesday morning.

Mrs Fionn King, who sailed with her family in the ship in July last year, said yesterday she then complained to the crew about the "terrible stench" in the cabin from the lavatory.

Seamus McLoughlin, a senior marine investigator for the Irish government, said

yesterday the ship could resume regular Cork-Swansea sailings. He was satisfied that the "million-to-one fault" in the sewage system had been put right.

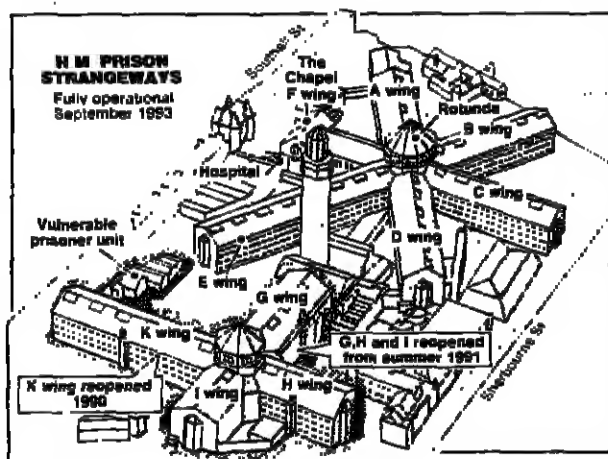
Less than a month ago the Celtic Pride's operators were given a further warning about the ferry's sewage system. Michael Appleby from Wakefield, West Yorkshire, reported to the crew "an appalling smell" from a lavatory.

Stuart Hulse, a spokesman for Swansea Cork Ferries, said yesterday that a couple of dozen such complaints over the course of a season. That was not that unusual aboard ferries, he said. The company, which has lost a number of bookings since the tragedy, said the ship was operated to "a safe and high level".

Irish marine investigators were yesterday working on the theory that the water filling the U-bend in the lavatory, and acts as a barrier to toxic fumes, had become displaced, perhaps as the ferry rolled in heavy seas. Gas from the Celtic Pride's sewage tanks would have been allowed to escape into the cabin.

Other operators were yesterday checking their vessels. Brittany Ferries said: "Checks are being made on all 11 of our ferries to make sure there are no problems." Sealink said: "With the type of modern vacuum toilets we use, which do not depend on water in the U-bend as a barrier against gas, there is no possibility of this type of accident happening aboard our ships." Sally Link said safety checks were made every day. "We also make a specific check for gas each day. In any case, our sewage treatment plants are well away from the cabins."

The Celtic Pride arrived in Swansea harbour last night after a 10-hour crossing from Cork with a full load of 500 passengers. The ship was later sailing back with a full load, though many families had cancelled cabin berths and were prepared to spend the night in the bars and public lounges of the Finnish-built ship.



## Riot jail security 'too restrictive'

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

TOUGH new security arrangements in refurbished wings of Strangeways jail are oppressive and too restrictive, the Prison Officers' Association (POA) said yesterday.

The criticism comes after the chief inspector of prisons told the Home Office grave trouble could again erupt in the Manchester prison which was the scene of the worst jail riot in British penal history.

Judge Tumm said that the prison's physical security arrangements including closed circuit cameras and double gates with electromagnetic locks, were oppressive and risked undermining the future development of the jail and the prison regime.

Prison officers at the jail, where four out of the nine wings have been modernised and rebuilt after the 1990 riot, have complained that the "awesome" physical security is disrupting daily activity. The POA said that its members were unhappy about the level of security introduced in the jail. "They think the security arrangements are oppressive and they suspect they were designed with the privatisation of the prison in mind."

### CORRECTIONS

THE review of Michel Foucault by Didier Eribon that appeared on yesterday's Books page was mistakenly attributed to Roger Scruton. The piece was in fact written by John Weightman. We apologise to both authors for this error.

CONTRARY to our Diary report on Wednesday, Mills & Boon are not suing Professor David Lodge for libel. As stated, Pauline Harris is, and she has now brought a separate action against Mills & Boon. We regret this error.

## Van tip-off helped to foil IRA bombers

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A TIP-OFF from an alert member of the public helped Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch to foil IRA plans to place car bombs on London streets using a stockpile of up to a ton of home-made explosives, police sources said yesterday.

A number of vehicles had been bought ready for a bomb-maker to work on but they were found last weekend and removed days before the attacks were due to start. It would have taken an expert a few hours to assemble the devices ready for attacks on at least the scale of the City blast in April that killed three.

Yesterday, as detectives interviewed three men and two women placed on several days of raids at addresses across London, police sources said that investigations would examine any possible links with the City bomb. They also disclosed that the police operation was partly prompted by a member of the public who became suspicious after seeing a van for cash.

Details have not been released, but it is likely the buyer was Irish. The vendor went to police and his information matched other intelligence and surveillance work already under way.

Detectives began a hunt for the buyer and the vehicle. Once officers identified suspect vans, they were swiftly removed.

Commander George Churchill-Coleman, head of the Yard's anti-terrorist squad, said in a statement yesterday that the arrests and seizures arose "out of long-term operations", which were continuing.

Mainland target, page 5



Churchill-Coleman: "the operation continues"

## Fear of council tax quagmire recedes

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

FEARS that the new council tax will become bogged down by millions of valuation appeals receded yesterday when it became clear most homes have been valued at a lower level than predicted.

Conservative backbenchers have been warning that the drop in property prices over the past 18 months could prompt up to five million householders to appeal against council tax valuations that are based on prices in April last year. Their fears were founded on government estimates of the percentage of properties that would fall into each of the eight council tax bands, which suggested that almost 6.5 million homes would fall into the top four bands.

Figures obtained by The Times show that the valuations placed on properties by the Inland Revenue Valuation Office are in reality much lower than those predicted by the government. Only four

million homes will fall into the top four bands according to figures given by valuation office staff at a private seminar last week. The lowest band will cover almost six million homes instead of the 4.3 million originally estimated.

There are more homes in the country than the government first thought, which will help to offset the effects of having fewer high-value properties. Civil servants have based council tax plans on the assumption that there are 23 million homes in mainland Britain, but sources said yesterday that the six-month council tax valuation exercise had uncovered "rather more" than that.

Without the extra homes to balance the reduction in the number of high-value properties there was a danger that people living in cheaper houses would have to pay more tax to cover the shortfall. That risk has now receded.

| Band | House price £   | Properties in % | Govt estimate % |
|------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| A    | 0-40,000        | 25              | 19              |
| B    | 40,001-52,000   | 20              | 16              |
| C    | 52,001-68,000   | 21              | 20              |
| D    | 68,001-88,000   | 14.5            | 17              |
| E    | 88,001-120,000  | 9               | 13              |
| F    | 120,001-160,000 | 3               | 8               |
| G    | 160,001-320,000 | 3               | 6               |
| H    | 320,001 upwards | 0.5             | 1               |

Source: Valuation office and Environment department. Figures in column 1 do not add up to 100 due to rounding up.

## 4m summonsed for not paying poll dues

ALMOST four million people were summonsed to appear before magistrates for non-payment of the poll tax in the first six months of this year, according to statistics compiled by the Lord Chancellor's Department (Douglas Broom writes).

The figures show that in the same period the courts granted more than 2.6 million liability orders against defaulters giving councils the right to send in bailiffs.

More than 12 million summonses have been issued against non-payers since the community charge was introduced in April 1990 and figures issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy show that

the cost of collecting the tax is still rising. Estimates for the current financial year suggest that poll tax administration will cost councils £676 million, an increase of 13 per cent on last year. Councils in England and Wales will spend on average £13.04 per chargepayer.

In addition to administration costs councils are forced to borrow millions of pounds to cover losses caused by those who refuse to pay or leave payment until the last minute. The burden falls on those who pay through what are known as "other adjustments" added to poll tax bills. This year the surcharge averages £14 a head across the country.

## Travel industry fears domino collapse

With a million package holidays unsold, tour firms are prepared for the worst, Harvey Elliott reports

Healthy profits — are slack. The problems began early in the year, when tour operators decided that the recession would end by the summer and that the collapse of Harry Goodman's International Leisure Group provided the ideal opportunity to increase the number of holidays on sale. They applied for licences to sell 30 per cent more holidays than last year and were taken aback when the predicted boom in bookings failed to materialise. The number of packages and seat-only flights taken this year is unlikely to be more than 5 per cent up on last year.

Some bigger companies, such as Thomson, the market leader, were determined to hang on to their market share and cut prices sharply to win custom. This put the others under pressure to do the same, though with less clout to force lower prices out of their suppliers, they had higher overheads and could not afford to offer "loss leaders".

Many did, however, and as a result the average price of a package holiday

in July, normally the peak month when tour operators look forward to maximum returns, fell sharply to £277 compared with an average of £396 in the first six months of the year. Holidaymakers had learnt that prices were falling, and decided, wisely, to delay booking until the last moment. By the start of August, however, there were few instant holidays left and almost all operators were able to sell what remained at full brochure price.

By then the damage had been done and tour operators were already struggling to claw back some of their earlier heavy losses. Many pleaded with airlines to be more flexible in their demands for cash. Airlines like to be paid on the fifteenth of each month for flights taken in the first two weeks of the next month, and on the twenty-ninth for the last two weeks.

They were now being asked to accept payment no more than a week in advance. With their profits also being squeezed, they had little choice but to agree. The squeeze was

also put on tour operators by the late bookings made by customers.

In the boom years, operators had become used to being paid in full eight weeks before departure. Suddenly more people were booking within a week of departure and, with the travel agent taking time to send on the money, there was a gap when bills had to be paid and money was not coming in.

Roger Allard, of the Tour Operators Study Group, says there will be failures this year. "Last year the industry made 3.8 per cent return on turnover but I doubt if it will be half that this year. The small companies and those providing flight-only seats are feeling the pinch more than the larger companies, which have travel agencies, tour operators and airlines that can share the burden."

With the first brochures for 1993 about to hit travel agents' shelves, there is every indication that the mistakes of this year will not be repeated and capacity will be cut by at least 5 per cent. The fear is that this may be achieved through business failings in an industry that last year made record profits of £104.8 million and which has now gone firmly into reverse.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

## Race row teachers 'threatened to quit'

Teachers at Slough and Eton Church of England School, Berkshire, which has been accused of "institutional racism", threatened to resign if a Muslim candidate for the headship was appointed, it was said last night. Berkshire County Council has received a 1,000-name petition complaining of European bias at the school, where 98 per cent of the 400 pupils are Asian but staff and governors are mostly white. Parent governors have disclosed a letter to the governing body and local authority from 25 staff saying that most teachers "would not wish to continue teaching at that school" if the Asian candidate was chosen. The letter, the school if the Asian candidate was chosen. The letter, the school if the Asian candidate was chosen. The letter, the school if the Asian candidate was chosen.

## Law 'failing the citizen'

The next Master of the Rolls called last night for the European Convention on Human Rights to be incorporated into United Kingdom law to provide further protection for citizens. Although the government opposes such a move, Lord Justice Bingham said it was not necessarily true that English law provided adequate protection for the citizen. There had been a stream of cases that had gone to Strasbourg, and Britain had been found to be in breach of the convention. "It would be much better if the implementation of the convention at first instance was in the hands of British judges," he said. "I take a rather historical view. The traditional protection of the rights of British citizens lay in the hands of British judges. It is a sad thing it should lie somewhere else."

## Hodgson retains title

Julian Hodgson, the grandmaster from London, retained the British Chess Championship with one round to spare yesterday when he outplayed Andrew Webster in the 10th round at Plymouth (Raymond Keene writes). The win gives Hodgson the unassailable score of nine points from 10 games. A win today would give Hodgson a British Championship record of 10 points out of 11 — the previous best was nine-and-a-half. In other matches involving the leaders Andrew Martin defeated Jonathan Mestel, the veteran grandmaster from Cambridge, and John Emms drew with Mark Hebden. With one round still to be played, the scores are: Hodgson 9, Martin 7, Mestel, Emms, and Hebden, 7. Nigel Short and Jon Speelman are not taking part.

## Bates reveals affair

Chelsea chairman Ken Bates told a press conference last night that he was having an affair with Susanah Dwyer, a freelance football writer. At the press conference at the Courant Hotel in Chelsea Harbour, southeast London, Mr Bates began by announcing a secure future for Chelsea's Stamford Hill ground. He then told reporters that the continual publicity "has been particularly hard on my wife Pam, whose fierce and unswerving support has been a very significant factor in the outcome. The consequence has been that for some time by mutual agreement we have led more separate lives". He said his wife had been aware of his "ongoing relationship" with Ms Dwyer for some time. He broke the news of the affair two days before the new Premier League season kicks off tomorrow.

## K-reg car sales down

Sales of K-registration cars are down 1.8 per cent compared with the first ten days of August last year. The first ten-day figure this year was 223,283 compared with 227,437 last year. The best sellers were Ford Escort, Ford Fiesta, Vauxhall Astra, Vauxhall Cavalier and Ford Sierra. Car production for last month, at 120,740 models, was more than 18 per cent up on the July 1991 figure. The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders said.

## Tree-feller fined £1,500

A man was fined £1,500 and ordered to pay £2,000 costs after he chopped down a holly tree in his garden. Wandsworth council prosecuted Mohammed Kuerishi, of Tooting, south London, after he ignored a warning not to cut down the tree which was in Wandsworth Common conservation area. Neighbours had earlier told the council that they feared for the tree's future. Kuerishi was prosecuted under the Town and Country Planning Act and could have been fined up to £20,000, the council said.

### THIRD ANNOUNCEMENT

## IMPORTANT SAFETY MESSAGE FROM CANDY

### CANDY-KELVINATOR COMBINED WASHER/DRYERS

Owners of Candy Kelvinator washer/dryers are urged to check that their machine is used in accordance with the User Instruction Booklet, during the drying mode, overheating could occur. In order to prevent this possibility we are offering to fit an additional component completely free of charge.

#### PLEASE NOTE

This offer only involves Candy Kelvinator models and not standard washing machine models. The appliances involved were produced between week 01 1986 and week 18 1988 and can be identified by the serial number which is located on the rating plate on the rear of the appliance in the top corner.

A four digit code can appear before or after the ten digit serial number. The eighth digit of the serial number denotes the production year. The ninth and tenth digits denote the production week.

CODE NUMBER CAN APPEAR FIRST OR LAST  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
Production year 1986 Production week 16

The machines involved display the following numbers on their control panel:  
CANDY 15, 21, 22, 27, 28, 37, 38, 39, 200, 801, 801.2, plus KELVINATOR - KWD models.

PLEASE DO NOT USE THE DRYING CYCLE OF YOUR MACHINE UNTIL IT HAS BEEN INSPECTED. To enable the unit to be carried out free of charge, or if you are in any doubt, please telephone:

**FREEPHONE 0800 373240.**  
Quoting the brand, model and full serial number. Alternatively please complete and return the coupon below, you will then be contacted as soon as possible.

To: P.O. Box 88, Bramborough, Writtle, Merseyside L62 3GW.

Surname \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Home Tel. \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Tel. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Brand \_\_\_\_\_

Model No. \_\_\_\_\_ Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_



## British girl found dead after 12 hours in Crete hotel pool

BY PETER VICTOR

A BRITISH girl on holiday in Crete lay drowned for 12 hours in a hotel swimming pool that was so murky she could not be seen even by people who dived in to look for her, it was claimed yesterday.

Joanne Todd, 17, from Sunderland, Tyne and Wear, was on her first foreign holiday without her parents. They are pressing the Manchester-based tour company she travelled with for more details on the incident. Local detectives have ruled out foul play.

Miss Todd, an office secretary, lay undetected until management at her apartment complex in Crete was persuaded to drain the 10ft-deep pool at the Golden Apartments complex at Agios Nikolaos. Her friends, who had been searching for her, said the water was too cloudy to see the bottom.

Miss Todd went swimming alone at 4.30am on Monday after a farewell party, but it was not until midday that her

cousin, Lisa Snowball, 17, who was also on holiday, raised the alarm. Holiday-makers formed search parties to scour the area, and many dived into the pool to look for her. Miss Todd and British consular officials were contacted but the pool was not drained until after 5pm.

Miss Snowball, of Ryhope, Sunderland, said: "The water in the pool was very dark and the reflection of the sun on the surface made it impossible to see the bottom. Joanne had just learned to dive and was very excited."

"We came in from a nightclub and she wanted to go to the pool. I went with her and watched her dive a few times. I went back to the room but I could still hear her splashing about."

"Suddenly it went quiet but I knew she was a strong swimmer and I just thought she had gone for a walk to cool off. I went to sleep." She added: "We looked everywhere and two lads dived in

to see if she was in the pool but they couldn't find her. After a while we assumed she'd gone off and was having a laugh at our expense — she was a bit of a practical joker."

It was not until late afternoon that some bathers noticed a shadow in the deep end and asked that the pool be drained. "We just thought it was a towel," Miss Snowball said. "One of the lads dived in again and came back up screaming and shouting — then I knew he had found Joanne."

Miss Todd's father, Tyrone, 41, a television and video engineer, said: "It's hard to believe that they waited all that time before draining the pool. While Joanne was lying dead there were people playing and swimming in the water."

"Joanne's friends said that the name of the holiday firm was on the bottom of the pool but the water was so dark and murky you couldn't read it. No wonder no one saw her."

Mr Todd and his wife Brenda, 38, a shop assistant, are waiting for arrangements to be made to fly their daughter's body home. A post-mortem examination carried out in Crete has established that Joanne had drowned, and an inquest will be held in Britain.

The death, on Monday, shattered holidaymakers at the £45-a-week complex. Before flying home on Tuesday morning about 30 holiday-makers at the resort stood around the pool and sprinkled flowers on the water as a local priest said prayers.

Mr Todd, whose other daughter Karen was 20 yesterday, said that Joanne had learned to dive into the water only that day. He believed that she was practising so that she could show off to her parents on her return.

"She was a good swimmer but never had the confidence or courage to dive in. She had phoned us on the Sunday night and was over the moon at being able to dive."

"She also said that she wished it had only been a 10-day break instead of two weeks, because she was home-



Joanne Todd: died after going for a swim at 4.30am when she left a farewell party

sick. She was a lovely girl who enjoyed life so much. We can hardly believe she's gone."

Joanne's cousin Lisa and the four other girls who had accompanied her on the trip called on Mr and Mrs Todd directly after landing at Newcastle International Airport on Tuesday evening.

Mr Todd said: "We had already been phoned by the Foreign Office to say that she was missing, and an hour later they rang back to say she was dead."

"The girls explained that they had been to a farewell barbecue and later in the

night Lisa and Joanne had gone back to their apartment for something to eat. Lisa had dozed off, but remembers Joanne saying that she was going to go down to the pool."

"There are some aspects of the circumstances of Joanne's death that I am not happy about but I am trying to keep an open mind until I know all the facts."

Marion Tzanaki, the British vice-consul on Crete, said that the water in the pool was not dirty. "The tiles on the bottom at the deep end are dark green and you literally cannot see the bottom," she

said. "The water is clean and safe to swim in, although it does appear murky."

A spokeswoman for the tour company said: "This was a terrible tragedy and our hearts go out to her family. From enquiries we have made we understand that the girl's body was trapped underneath an ornamental bridge in the pool before sinking to the bottom later."

"This would explain why nobody found her for some time." The company's reps and local police had told her that the water was not murky, she added.

## Race is on to beat house duty deadline

BY RACHEL KELLY  
PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

WITH only four working days to go before stamp duty is reintroduced on August 20, estate agents, solicitors and removal men are reporting frantic activity as house buyers rush to beat the deadline. The mood is just like the good old days when prices only went up and business boomed, they say.

The difference this time is that the hurry is temporary as people who were intending to buy anyway accelerate the process. No one is pretending it marks a permanent recovery in the market.

"July was our best month in over five years," said Harry Hill, managing director of Hambro Countrywide, one of the country's largest estate agency chains. Mr Hill estimated that his company sold 5,000 homes in July, up from 4,000 homes in June. "It has been like it was at the height of the boom years of 1987 and 1988."

The bottom end of the market is moving fastest. Houses worth under £60,000 are being snapped up by first-time buyers, who are particularly sensitive to stamp duty savings. The tax is usually paid by buyers on one per cent of the value of their homes over £30,000, but as part of the government's package of reforms to revitalise the housing market in December, payment of stamp duty on homes costing less than £250,000 was suspended.

The British Association of Removers reports tremendous pressure on their 700 members coping with homeowners who have to move out in advance of the deadline. Solicitors advise buyers that they are unable to hand over cash until they have possession of a property, in case a seller should prove reluctant to move afterwards.

Solicitors and insurance companies are also feeling the strain, with delays in getting searches from local authorities. Insurance companies are enjoying a brisk trade selling cover to protect against searches not being completed in time.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Dismissed journalists get £85,000

Thousands of pounds in compensation is to be paid to 21 journalists dismissed by Robert Maxwell three years ago in a dispute over union recognition.

The deal ends a long-running dispute between the National Union of Journalists and Pergamon Press, a scientific and technical publisher in Oxford. In May last year, Mr Maxwell sold it to Elsevier, a Dutch publishing company, and said that the dispute was out of his hands.

The NUJ said yesterday that Elsevier had agreed to give the union £85,000 for the journalists and the dispute was over. However, Jim Boumelha, leader of those dismissed, said that the offer was derisory and insulting.

## Runaway back

A soldier who went on the run five years ago after making allegations of bullying against the Royal Green Jackets is under close arrest at a Winchester army base. Paul Martin, 26, who was arrested at his home in Hayling Island, Hampshire, was alleged to have fled to Spain after being given 28 days' detention and being transferred to another regiment. He spent a year in Spain.

## Verdict delayed

An Old Bailey jury trying four men and a woman accused of laundering £14 million from the Brink's-Mat gold bullion robbery last night went to a hotel for a fourth night without reaching any verdict. The jurors will return to court today to continue their deliberations. The five accused are Brian Perry, Gordon Perry and Jean Savage from Kent and Patrick Clark and his son Stephen from Essex.

## Man released

Police hunting the murderer of Helen Gorrie last night released a 19-year-old local man they had been questioning. Inspector Barry Jake-man, of Hampshire police, said: "The man, who comes from Horndean, near Portsmouth, has not been charged and has been released." Miss Gorrie, 15, of Horndean, was strangled and sexually assaulted on August 1.

## Refugees offered UK homes

BY RAY CLANCY

HUNDREDS of Britons have contacted the Red Cross to offer homes to Bosnian refugees and donations to help those fleeing the war. They are being put in touch with local Red Cross branches that are co-ordinating information.

Ken Ritchie, of the British Refugee Council, said it was not just a matter of taking in a family short-term. "Resettlement involves more than accommodation. One has to consider language support, contact with their own community and employment."

The Red Cross said the best way to help was by a donation, which was used to buy food and specialist medical supplies. Donations should be sent to British Red Cross Former Yugoslavia Appeal, Freepost London, SW1X 7BR; credit card donations: 0891-234235.

Journalist shot, page 1  
Bosnia, page 9  
Heart of the matter  
L&T section, page 5

## Special clause gives Jaguar a chance to go on the prowl

EVEN the multimillionaire owner of the new £415,000 Jaguar gulped when he was told that insurance cover for the world's fastest production car could be more than £20,000 a year.

As one of Britain's top insurance brokers, however, he had the answer. He has set up a scheme offering comprehensive cover for owners of the new Jaguar XJ220 at just £5,500 a year — provided they do not drive more than 40 miles a week.

The restriction may not be enough to tempt the multimillionaire to the office and back each day but in these straitened times, even owners of what is regarded as the most exclusive car are looking for economies. Only 350 XJ220s are being made by the company's JaguarSport division at a factory at Blenheim, Oxfordshire. The car has been recorded at 212.3mph in tests and has smashed the unofficial record for a production car at nearly 223mph at the Nardo circuit in Italy.

Bill Donnelly, JaguarSport's sales and marketing manager, said yesterday that the exclusivity of the car

Insurance on an XJ220 would normally cost £20,000 a year, Kevin Eason reports

should guarantee its value at a price that is linked to inflation and has risen steadily from £290,000 plus VAT since orders were first taken two years ago. More than 1,500 people joined the waiting list but speculators were weeded out by the collapse in the market for antique models and supercars.

The XJ220, regarded as the ultimate Jaguar, is based on the Group C racing car that brought the company victories in the Le Mans 24-hour race and the world sports car championships. Jaguar emphasises that the model is designed to be driven daily as a road car but the first of 102 UK owners quickly became aware of the huge insurance costs.

Collectors who guaranteed that their car would stand still as a museum piece have been quoted premiums of

about £2,000 a year, but owners wanting to use their cars would have to find at least £20,000.

One of the first owners is a multimillionaire insurance broker, also thought to be a Lloyds name. He has set up a scheme that allows XJ220 owners to pay £5,500 a year providing they do not drive more than 2,000 miles annually. For £6,750 owners can have comprehensive cover for unlimited mileage. Among owners who could benefit are the pop star Elton John, four members of foreign royal families and several Japanese millionaires.

Mr Donnelly said: "Insurance is clearly a factor and we have just got this scheme together so that UK owners can insure their cars at a sensible cost."

Mr Donnelly said the company had decided not to sell the car in the US because authorities demanded special crash tests. The car would have to be fitted with large rubber bumpers, a feature Jaguar stylists did not want.

Motoring  
L&T section, page 7

## STOP PRESS FRANCE - WITH THE TIMES AND LBC

Each week throughout the summer, The Times and LBC will bring you news of last-minute bargains available for travellers to France, the latest information on bookings, flights, traffic problems and holiday ideas.

Saturday is a national holiday in France and there are many festivals taking place. There is a regatta at Etaples on Saturday and a veteran sailing ship regatta at Noirmoutier.

### ROADS

The AA warns that delays are likely on the A104 at La Francilienne, the A4 at Marne la Vallée, and on routes to the Mediterranean and Atlantic coasts. There are road works on the Boulevard Periphérique around Paris.



LBC NEWS TALK 97.3

on the A22 northeast of Lille, and on the A1 near Ronchin.

### FLIGHTS

TAT European Airlines reports limited availability on all flights this weekend from Gatwick to Paris and Nice and from Stansted to Tours, Poitiers and Brive. Air UK has space on its flights from Stansted to Paris and Nice over the weekend. Air France

has few seats left on its evening service today from Heathrow to Nice. Saturday flights are fully booked. There is space on early morning and evening flights from Heathrow to Paris on Saturday.

### FERRIES

Sally Ferries has limited space on its 11.30am sailing from Ramsgate each day over the next week. Hoverspeed has limited car space on morning hovercraft crossings between Dover and Calais today and tomorrow. Seacat sailings from Dover to Boulogne and Calais have little car space. Britany Ferries has foot passenger space on most of its sailings from Portsmouth.

### TRAINS

French Railways motorail services from Boulogne to Avignon and Narbonne will be running. Tuesday departures until September 22 at

off-peak prices. There are Friday departures from Boulogne to Avignon, Brive, Narbonne and Toulouse until October 16.

### OFFERS

Hoverspeed is offering day-return Seacat sailings from Folkestone to Boulogne for £65 per car and four passengers until September 26.

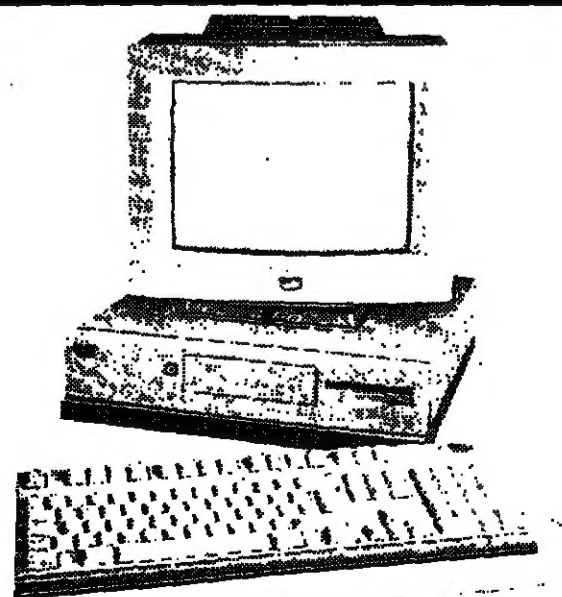
Cosmos has availability on a Euro Disney Funbreak departing on August 15 for two nights by coach for £155 per person.

### RATES

The franc has remained static against the pound. Exchange rates are between 10.06 and 10.09 when selling and 9.21 and 9.24 when buying.

Angela Rippon will be interviewing a Times journalist on her Drivetime programme next Thursday, August 20, at 6.50pm on LBC Newstalk.

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Screening detects 60% of affected babies

## Breakthrough in tests for Down's syndrome

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

DOCTORS have developed a simple blood test that makes it easier to detect Down's syndrome in babies during pregnancy.

The test, researched at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, raised the number of Down's syndrome babies detected by 71 per cent, from seven to 12, among a group of 12,000 women screened in East London. Down's syndrome is the commonest cause of mental handicap, affecting one in 750 births.

The Barts triple test measures three biochemical markers in blood at about 16 weeks of pregnancy. The measurements and woman's age are interpreted using a computer programme to predict the chance of her carrying a Down's syndrome baby.

If her risk is higher than one in 250 she is offered amniocentesis, a long-established test in which a sample of the fluid surrounding the baby is taken directly from the womb to confirm the

health of the baby. The risk of Down's syndrome rises with the mother's age, though because there are more births in younger age groups, three-quarters of Down's syndrome babies are born to women under 37.

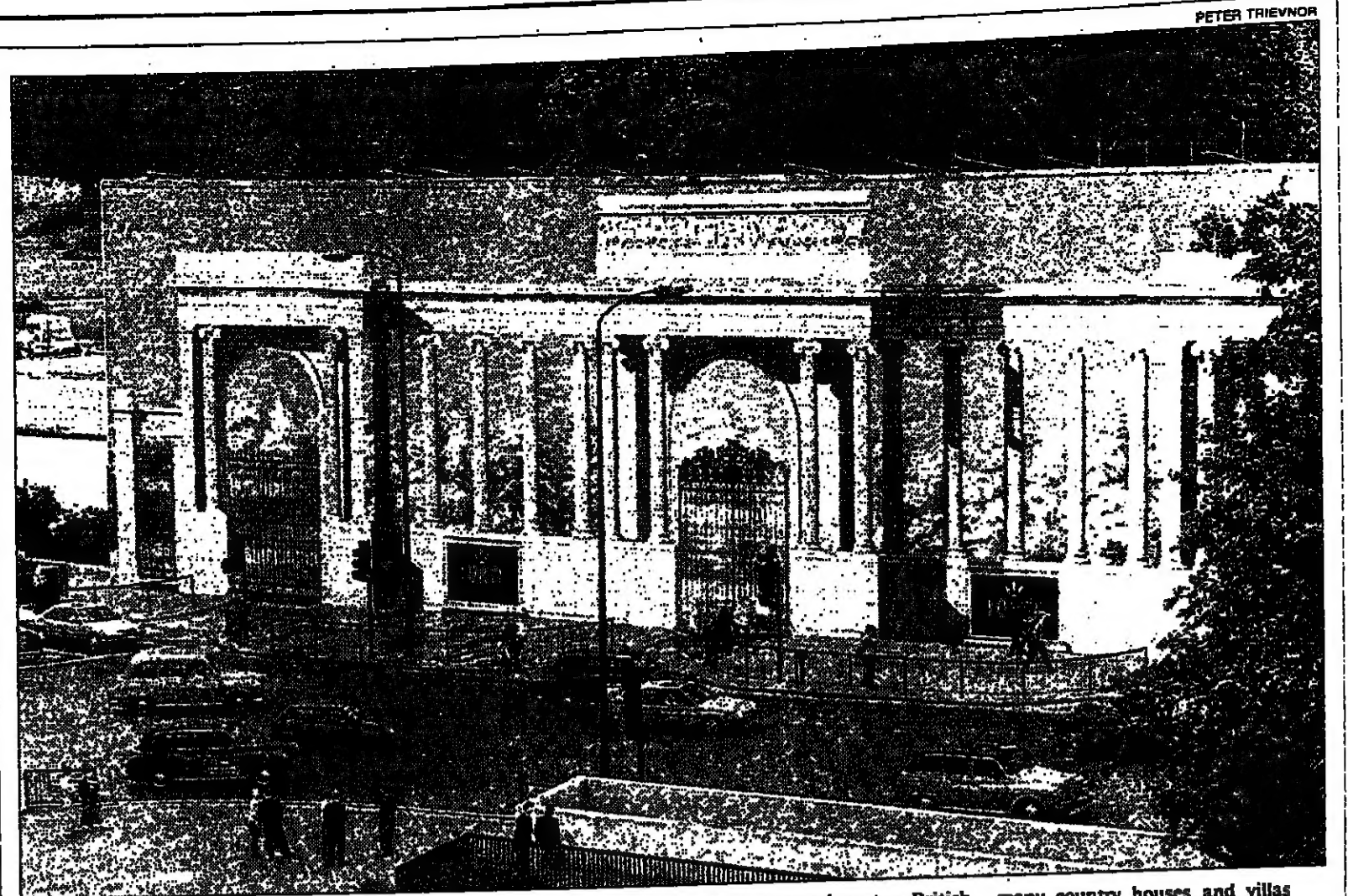
In the hospital's study, conducted over three years and published in tomorrow's *British Medical Journal*, 25 women out of 12,000 were carrying Down's syndrome babies, of whom 12 were detected by the test, later confirmed by amniocentesis. Had amniocentesis been offered to older women alone, only seven cases would have been found. By eliminating the need to offer amniocentesis routinely to older women — which carries a one in 100 chance of causing a miscarriage — the test also reduces the risk to the unborn baby.

Researchers say the test is capable of detecting up to 60 per cent of Down's syndrome babies. They estimate the money saved for each avoided

Down's syndrome birth at £38,000, based on the cost of the blood test for all pregnant women, the cost of amniocentesis for the high-risk group and the cost of abortions for those carrying affected babies. This is "substantially less" than the lifetime costs of caring for a handicapped person, put at £120,000 in 1987.

The most important reason for screening is not financial. "It is the avoidance of handicap and of distress to the families concerned," they say. David Blunkett, Labour's health spokesman, who is blind, says it is his aim that no one should ever be able to say of him: "He would have done it better if he had been able to see." Writing in the *BMJ*, he describes how his staff read correspondence and newspapers on cassettes, to which he listens late at night. He also has Braille transcription equipment linked to a computer and a scanner.

Health, L&amp;T, page 4



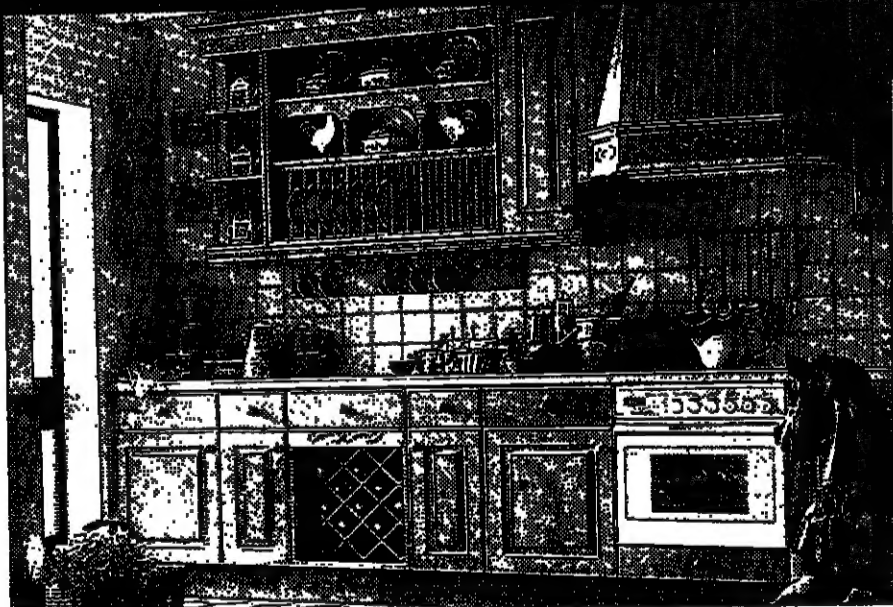
Classic revival: the Decimus Burton archway alongside Apsley House at Hyde Park Corner, central London, has been temporarily

hidden behind a screen to minimise the effects of work on a £350,000 restoration programme (John Young writes). Burton was a

leading nineteenth-century British architect and was closely associated with the Greek revival movement, whose work survives in

many country houses and villas and in the elegant estates in several fashionable early Victorian spas and seaside resorts.

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## Nurse denies cruelty

A NURSE yesterday denied hurling an eight-week-old baby through the air at his mother after a row. Sheila Beeson, 29, was working at the home of James Longcroft, an accountant, and his wife, Anita, a lawyer, in Chelsea, west London, when the incident was alleged to have taken place, the *Old Bailey* was told. In the six weeks she had been employed as a nurse for James, their baby, the relationship between her and the family deteriorated.

Beeson, a state-enrolled nurse, of Thornhill, Southampton, denies child cruelty. She said she had been awake all night because James had cried constantly. Anthony Coleman, prosecuting, alleges that Beeson, scarlet with rage, swept past her employer and stormed up the stairs. On the third or fourth step she turned and threw James at his mother saying: "You can keep your damned baby, I have had it."

Beeson denied throwing James and told the court he never left her arms. She had always got on with previous employers. Several references were read to the jury describing her as "a reliable, honest worker with a good personality".

The trial was adjourned until today, when the jury is expected to consider its verdict.

## Ecstasy deaths rising

By ALISON ROBERTS

THE number of deaths caused by taking the drug Ecstasy is increasing, the National Poisons Unit says. Liver disorders and consequent transplants as a result of Ecstasy are also on the increase and may account for unexplained jaundice and liver failure in young people.

There was a big increase in enquiries in the second half of last year and a continuing increase in cases of severe toxic reaction that could result in death, says the unit's report in *The Lancet*. The fifteenth Ecstasy-related death this year occurred in Manchester earlier this week.

The drug — known as MDMA — can cause the body to overheat, a condition worsened by hours of dancing in hot clubs or discos where Ecstasy is taken as a mood-enhancer. Blood-clotting, muscle breakdown and kidney failure are other potentially fatal reactions.

Idiosyncratic allergic reactions may occur after the first experience with the drug. More worrying are the liver problems caused by prolonged use, which are only just coming to light.

Another side effect recently recognised in those who take the drug regularly for as little as two weeks is structural brain damage that can lead to psychosis.

### SECRETARIES' PAY

Median basic pay for manager's secretary

| TOP FIVE              |         |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Central London        | £14,915 |
| London (excl Central) | £12,988 |
| Thames Valley         | £12,027 |
| Grampian              | £11,185 |
| Hertfordshire/Essex   | £10,836 |
| BOTTOM FIVE           |         |
| Yorkshire/North East  | £9,878  |
| Hampshire/Dorset      | £9,480  |
| North East Midlands   | £9,143  |
| Staffordshire         | £9,102  |
| South West            | £8,058  |

## Top secretaries' pay beats inflation rate

By LUCY ROCK

SECRETARIES' salaries have risen by an average 6.5 per cent in the past year compared with a 4.5 per cent rise for clerical workers.

Chief executives' secretaries received even more, with rises averaging 7.3 per cent, while managers' secretaries got 4 per cent and shorthand/ audio typists 5.6 per cent, according to a Reward Group survey published today.

Companies are rewarding secretaries because they do not want to lose a skilled employee who plays a vital role in the smooth running of the company, says Steve Flather, of Reward Group.

The highest-paid secretaries work for chief executives and earn a national average of £13,416 a year. Directors' secretaries get £12,027 and managers' secretaries £10,400. At the bottom of the scale are typists on £8,274 a year. The salary at each level differs greatly between regions and is most marked

when comparing secretarial pay in central London to the national average. The average London wage is £18,624 — 40 per cent above the national average.

Research on London secretaries by the Reward Group earlier this year found that 45 per cent have private company health insurance, 15 per cent get Luncheon Vouchers worth from 75p to £12.50 a week, and 6 per cent get a weekly meal allowance of between £6.50 and £14.42. Only 3.4 per cent of the 120 organisations questioned gave secretaries company cars.

Other high-paying regions are Thames Valley and Grampian, where the average salaries for a manager's secretary are £12,027 and £11,183 respectively. Those paid the lowest (£9,038) are in the South-West.

Clerical and Operative Rewards July (Reward Group, Stone, Staffordshire, £150)



## Focus on the new role of MI5 and MI6

## Security services take aim at IRA gangs on the mainland

THE discovery of a large stock of explosives and the arrest by Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad of suspected members of an IRA gang represent the first fruits of a new intelligence drive against terrorism on the mainland led by the security service MI5.

Since Stella Rimington, the director-general of MI5, was given the lead over Special Branch three months ago in countering the IRA on the mainland, there has been a new concentration of effort to glean intelligence of terrorists' movements and to respond to information with maximum resources. A huge team of MI5, Special Branch and anti-terrorist squad police is involved in the latest operation.

The new role for MI5 has been accepted gracefully by the police, but will it be subject to any form of public scrutiny? Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, is understood to have given permission for Mrs Rimington to appear before the Commons home affairs select committee to answer questions in public for the first time about the work of the security service.

The committee wrote to Mrs Rimington inviting her to appear, but she has yet to



Allason: looking for insights into MI5 policy give her formal response. Mrs Rimington is believed to be keen to take on a more public role, but approval had to be sought first from Mr Clarke, who is the minister accountable for the security service.

Mrs Rimington and Sir Colin McColl, chief of the secret intelligence service MI6, are hardly household names, but the burst of open government displayed by the prime minister and some cabinet ministers in the past six months has allowed the public to learn the identity of the heads of the two intelligence services. How much more is going to be revealed about the

## Michael Evans investigates the new openness sweeping the intelligence services in the first report of a two-part series

workings of these secret organisations?

Sir Ivan Lawrence, the newly elected chairman of the Commons home affairs committee, said: "If Mrs Rimington comes to see us I'm not sure what she can tell us. It will be difficult for us to choose questions that she can actually answer. She can't tell us about the size of her organisation, or her budget, or in what fields they operate because that might be what a potential enemy would want to hear. So we will have to devise questions that don't give away the most important information."

However, Rupert Allason, Tory MP for Forthay, who writes about intelligence under the pseudonym Nigel West, believes that the opportunity for questioning Mrs Rimington on broad issues would be useful. "I think there are a lot of things she can say about policy," he said.

MI5 and MI6 are undergoing a switch in roles and resources. Like the armed forces, the collapse of the Warsaw pact and the disintegration of the Soviet Union has deprived them of their main enemies. Both Mrs Rimington and Sir Colin, and to a lesser extent GCHQ, the government's electronic eavesdropping centre in Cheltenham, are engaged in restructuring manpower and operational strategy to meet the perceived new threats.

They do not have the resources of the American intelligence agencies — the CIA and the National Security Agency — which are reputed to share an annual intelligence budget of £15.5 billion, although both MI5 and MI6 are to move into bigger premises. MI5's future home will be at Thames House, by Lambeth Bridge, but headquarters staff will probably not move until the end of 1994. MI6 staff are expected to move into their new £150 million lavishly designed headquarters at Vauxhall Cross by Vauxhall Bridge next year.

Mrs Rimington, with a budget that probably runs into several hundred million pounds and an estimated staff of about 3,000, can afford to devote less resources to the spying activities of Britain's former Soviet bloc enemies. The threat of

communist-inspired subversion by trade unions is also a thing of the past.

She has the opportunity, therefore, to make a real impact in combating terrorism. MI5 also has the responsibility for countering Loyalist terrorists on the mainland, such as the now-banned Ulster Defence Association, although it poses no obvious threat outside Northern Ireland and the ban only covers its political activities in the province.

MI6 has an estimated staff of about 2,000, but there are probably fewer than 500 officers deployed as intelligence-gatherers around the world. These are the elite members of MI6. The rest are analysts and headquarters staff. One lesson that has been learnt from the failure to predict Iraq's invasion of Kuwait is the need to put more emphasis on human intelligence. However, there is not expected to be a noticeable boost to MI6 officer recruiting.

Hints by ministers earlier this year suggested that some of the MI6 officers serving in Eastern Europe and in the former Soviet Union could be transferred closer to home. However, the aftermath of the Cold war has created new dangers that MI6 officers, in collaboration with allied intelligence services, are uniquely qualified to confront: in particular, the potential leakage of nuclear weapons material and expertise from Russia and the three other former Soviet republics that have nuclear systems. China is also bound to continue as a prime intelligence-gathering target because of the takeover of Hong Kong in 1997.

The new strategy for MI6 was outlined in a recent secret report by a three-man sub-committee of the Cabinet Office Joint Intelligence Committee, the body that analyses intelligence from all sources and provides the prime minister and other relevant cabinet ministers with their "red books" of digested intelligence.

Diplomat defects, page 14



Handcuffed: Roderick Newall leaving prison on his way to court yesterday

## Court rules Newall will stay in jail

FROM DOMINIQUE SEARLE IN GIBRALTAR

RODERICK Newall, 27, accused in Jersey of murdering his parents in October 1987, will spend a further week in Gibraltar's Moorish Castle prison, Judge Felix Pizzarello ruled yesterday. The ruling had been agreed by the defence and the prosecution.

There was no bail application because Mr Newall's lawyer had not seen details of the evidence, a spokesman for Newall said. The ruling followed a clash over reporting restrictions between John Blackburn Gittings, for the prosecution, who opposed them, and Chris Finch, Mr Newall's Gibraltar lawyer, who said they should apply.

The argument will continue when the preliminary hearing resumes on August 20. A full hearing is expected to begin within three weeks. Philip Bailhache, Jersey's attorney-general, wants Mr Newall extradited for trial in Jersey, but the quality of the evidence that led to Mr Newall's arrest in international waters last week has not been disclosed.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Banks sued over 'ghost withdrawals'

Solicitors acting for people who claim they have suffered phantom withdrawals from automatic cash dispensers yesterday began legal proceedings in the High Court against banks and building societies.

Nine people are named in a writ against Barclays, Midland, Lloyds, TSB and the Nationwide building society in a test case that could open the way for hundreds of others to sue.

J. Keith Park and Co, a Lancashire firm of solicitors heading the case against the financial institutions, said that up to 200 other clients could join the action. The sums involved range from £400 to £2,000.

## Varnish firm fined £8,000

A varnish manufacturer was fined £8,000 and ordered to pay £466 costs after its factory at Banbury, Oxfordshire, was destroyed in a £1 million fire when a worker tried to clear a blocked pipe on a mixing tank by heating it with a blowtorch.

Christine Marshall, prosecuting for the Health and Safety Executive, told Banbury magistrates: "Nobody seemed to have considered the dangers of using naked flame near a liquid with a temperature of more than 100 degrees Celsius." The company, Altor, admitted breaching the 1974 Health and Safety at Work Act.

## Double voter

Richard Eason, 24, of Heanor, Derbyshire, who admitted using a false name to vote in the general election and attempting to do it a second time, was sent to crown court for sentence by Ilkeston magistrates.

## Open day celebrates the lowly peat bog

By JOHN YOUNG

SOME of the least visited parts of Britain, peat bogs, will be opened to the public on Sunday to mark the first National Bog Day.

Although lowland bogs do not have the same obvious scenic beauty as, say, the high open moorlands of Scotland, they have their own appeal. Because of the wealth of wildlife they support, their future is also a cause of environmental concern.

Although Britain has more than 2.5 million acres of acid peat, most is blanketed by the high moors and in the Flow Country of northern Scotland. The rarer and more vulnerable lowland bogs occupy fewer than 100,000 acres and are being destroyed at an alarming rate.

English Nature has spent considerable sums compensating farmers on the Somerset Levels for agreeing not to drain their land, and more recently the Peat Campaign Consortium, formed by wildlife organisations, has demanded a ban on further peat extraction for garden compost.

English Nature was strongly criticised earlier this year for doing a deal with Fisons, whereby the company would continue to mine peat in return for handing over more than a third of its holdings as national nature reserves.

The open day is being organised by the Wildlife Trusts Partnership, an umbrella body for almost 100 local groups affiliated to the Royal Society for Nature Conservation. People will be able to view wildlife usually seen only on television, with experts identifying rare species. Telephone 0522-544400 for details.

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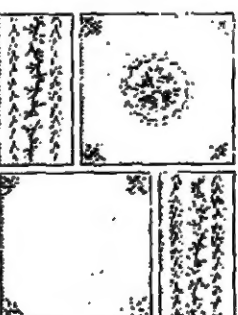
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Three-quarters of chemical products could be replaced by agricultural waste, experts say

## Farmers face a brave new world fuelled by flowers

Fuels derived from plants are renewable, biodegradable and won't worsen the greenhouse effect, says **Michael Hornsby**

CARS with bodies made from plant fibre and fuelled by fermented starch and sugar, power stations driven on chicken droppings and straw, and industrial lubricants made from sunflower oil could supply farmers with new markets in a Europe sated with food.

Making more industrial use of farm crops and waste is seen as a way of reducing over-reliance on petrochemicals and finite supplies of fossil fuels, offering farmers a profitable use for land that might otherwise be taken out of agriculture altogether.

It is estimated that at least three-quarters of chemical products now in use could be made with agricultural raw materials, which are renewable, biodegradable and will not worsen the "greenhouse effect" since they give back to the atmosphere no more carbon dioxide than they take from it as crops.

The European Community consumes about five million tonnes of plant-derived oils each year, of which 1.7 million are already used by the chemical industry for non-food purposes. But the potential is much greater. Sunflowers (starting to appear in Britain as summers get warmer) and oilseed rape, now grown solely or mainly as edible crops, could be bred or genetically modified to produce industrial oils or biodiesel.

Caroline Speiman, a freelance researcher, says the EC

produces only about one fifth of its oilseed needs but has the capacity to crush and process about 80 per cent. "There is likely to be increasing demand for oils of vegetable origin. The Dutch, for example, have recently made the use of degradable propeller lubricant mandatory on their canals to combat pollution."

Bioethanol, made by fermenting the starch or sugar in wheat and beet, could in theory replace petrol entirely or, more realistically, replace lead as an octane booster. This is little more than theory because until now the cost of producing "green" plant-derived fuels has been prohibitive. But that may change. EC member states are discussing proposals to cut the tax on green fuels by 90 or even 100 per cent, equivalent to a subsidy of 24p a litre, and to impose a tax on fossil fuels, such as oil and coal, which, it is calculated, would eventually raise petrol prices by about 3.5p per litre.

In Britain, the privatised electricity companies are already required to take a small proportion of their power from renewable energy sources: and farmers will be allowed to grow industrial and "energy" crops on the 15 per cent of arable land they will be paid to set aside from food production under the EC's agricultural reforms.

"That means a farmer will be able to claim the set-aside payment of £80 an acre and get in addition whatever the



Horizon of opportunity: sunflowers could be used to produce industrial oils either through breeding or genetic modification, opening up new markets for farmers

Industrial user will pay for his crop," Ian Gardiner, the policy director of the National Farmers Union, said. "Combine that with the tax measures being discussed and plant-derived fuels start to look much more viable."

Crops or farm waste that can be burnt directly are a more immediately attractive option. Poultry litter, a mix of chicken droppings and wood shavings from the floors of broiler houses, is already being used at Eye, Suffolk, to fuel a 12.6 megawatt commercial power station that meets the needs of 12,500 consumers. Three more such stations are being built or planned.

Farmers have traditionally

burned five million tonnes of straw every autumn in their fields, a practice that will be banned from next year. Surplus straw could be used as a fuel — studies suggest that straw-fired power stations can compete with ones run on coal — or to replace wood in paper and fibre board, reducing the need to import tropical hardwood.

David Robson, a researcher at the Biocomposites Centre of the University College of North Wales, Bangor, Gwynedd, said: "Straw costs about £30 a tonne, compared with £55 for wood, so there is an incentive for manufacturers to use it."

Arable coppice also shows promise. Densely planted

fields of fast-growing species of willow and poplar are cut back to the stump every three to five years. After being dried and chipped, the cropped wood can go into chipboard or paper, be used to fuel boilers or turned into a gas to generate electricity. Five farmers around England each planted 25 acres of arable coppice last autumn in a ten-year pilot project backed by the trade and industry department. Caroline Foster, of the energy technology support unit, said: "If farmers in an area got together to invest in a power plant, they could supply electricity to local sawmills, abattoirs, food processing plants, hospitals, schools or even whole villages."

## Plastic is crop of the future

BIODEGRADABLE plastic could be grown and harvested like wheat or potatoes early next century, say American plant scientists (Michael Hornsby writes).

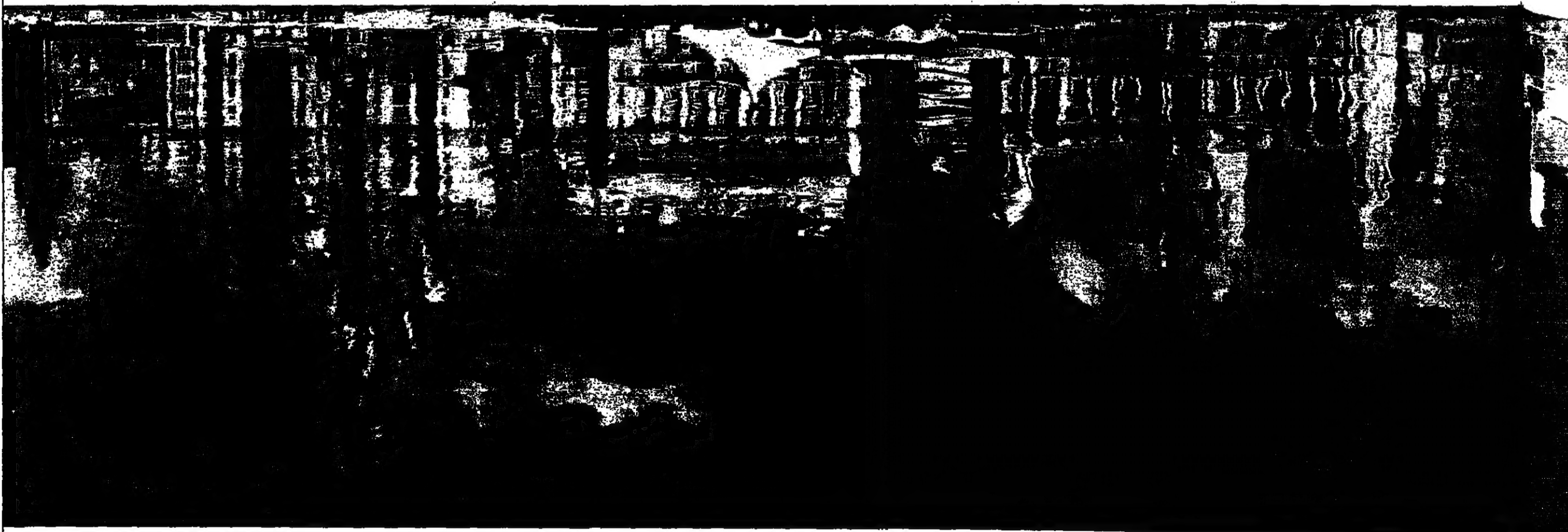
At present, 7 per cent of the 100 million tonnes of municipal solid waste generated annually in Europe is non-degradable plastic.

Scientists at Michigan State University have grown a plastic called polyhydroxybutyrate (PHB) in *Arabidopsis thaliana*, a plant of the rapeseed family often used in biotechnology experiments because of its relatively simple genetic structure. Christopher Somerville, professor of botany at the university's plant research laboratory, said: "Our research opens the way for a possible new and profitable cash crop for farmers. For the first time a plant has been genetically engineered to make something other than a protein."

PHB is made naturally by a soil bacterium called *Alcaligenes eutrophus*. The scientists identified the plastic-producing genes in the micro-organism and inserted them into the plant, which then began making PHB granules throughout its leaves, stems and roots.

The scientists say it could be five years before they know whether they have a viable product, and ten years after that before plastic crops are in the fields. Yves Poirier, an associate of Dr Somerville, said: "We see no reason in theory why crops cannot be programmed to produce a more complex, commercially usable plastic, though whether in sufficient quantity remains to be seen. ICI, the British company, is marketing a more complex version of PHB extracted from bacteria."

## Success after success is happening on Merseyside





## Pretoria accepts UN call for amnesty and enquiry into police

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN PRETORIA

AN INVESTIGATION into the role of the security forces in township violence and the negotiation of a general amnesty for white officials and their black opponents have been accepted by the South African government. R.F. "Pik" Botha, the foreign minister, yesterday announced the acceptance of all the recommendations of Boutros Boutros Ghali, the United Nations secretary-general, in his report to the UN Security Council, which followed the visit of Cyrus Vance, his special representative.

Mr Botha declared that, although he accepted the principle, the question of the investigation would have to be discussed with Justice Richard Goldstone, whose commission of enquiry into violence and intimidation has come to play a pivotal role in the progress to peace. It will also have to be negotiated with the armed wings of the African National Congress and other black liberation movements, and what Mr Botha called "the Inkatha police force".

He meant the KwaZulu police, the security arm of the semi-autonomous black homeland, which is ruled by a government of the Inkatha Freedom Party. Inkatha's opponents have long accused the KwaZulu police of acting like Inkatha's private police force, but this is the first official acknowledgement.

Kobie Coetsee, the justice minister, said that as a result of the good offices of Mr Vance he had met Thabo Mbeki of the ANC to discuss an amnesty. The government had formulated a plan and discussions with Mr Mbeki were continuing.

It was clear that the government was envisaging a blanket amnesty, which would avoid the need for an individual confession, something which the government extracted from ANC cadres when they sought amnesty under the previous release of political

prisoners. Mr Botha insisted that he personally would have no need of an amnesty: "I would like to confess my sins, but I don't need an amnesty at any stage in life," he said.

The question of a cut-off date is going to be of crucial significance for both sides, as each will have to sell it to its constituency. It will not be easy, for example, for the ANC to tell the inhabitants of Boipatong that the people who killed 40 of their neighbours in June will not be punished.

The Boipatong killings will loom large in such considerations as more evidence has been produced this week of direct police involvement. The evidence is only now being tested by cross-examination, but there have been a number of witnesses who have testified before the Goldstone commis-

sion. His evidence was tested yesterday by counsel for the police who have persuaded him to change his evidence in at least one respect already.

Suspicion of police complicity has not been allayed by the disclosure that all police radio transmissions are routinely recorded, but that the tape recordings for the night of June 17 have been accidentally erased.

Police Sergeant Ilse O'Reilly, commander of the control room, testified that she had been given false operating instructions for the tape machine that was installed in March and that only half of all messages transmitted between March and June have been saved.

Business Day, a Johannesburg daily, commented yesterday morning that Sergeant O'Reilly and Rose Mary Woods, who was President Nixon's private secretary, testified to Judge John Sirica's enquiry into the Watergate affair that she had accidentally stepped on a pedal switch and erased a crucial 18 minutes of conversation in the Oval Office when the illegal cover-up may, or may not, have been discussed by the president and his aides.

● Johannesburg: The body of a baby girl who had been "necklaced" was found next to the body of a murdered man in Eswatini township in the Vaal triangle, police reported yesterday (Ray Kennedy writes).

In Dobsonville, Soweto, yesterday police discovered the body of a five-year-old boy whose genitals had been cut off. They suspect that he was murdered elsewhere in a witchcraft ritual and his body dumped. It is the third such killing in the past two months.

Surgeons at Baragwanath hospital, Soweto, are considering performing a sex-change operation on a two-year-old boy who was found barely alive after being mutilated.



Botha: investigation will be discussed

sion, sitting in Vereeniging that they saw white men among the killers.

The most crucial witness was Ntsetsa Xaba, a special police constable, who lived in the township. Constable Xaba said that, after being woken up by the sound of gunfire, he saw a police armoured car, a Casspir, with two armed men in front of it and about 50 behind it wearing red headbands and shouting "this is our day" in Zulu.



The face of hunger: Abdi Noor, starving and ill, waits for international help at a clinic for Somali refugees at Liboi in neighbouring Kenya. He is one of more than 35,000 escaping from drought and civil war

## Teenage gunmen hunt food in Somalia

Sam Kiley, on the road to Mogadishu, finds the key to male bonding by shooting an antelope cuter than Bambi

DIKDIK are the smallest antelope in the world. About the size of a hare with tiny, spiked horns the animal is so sweet and semi-tame it makes Bambi look like a leviathan. It is said that these darling animals are so monogamous that if one dies its partner will pine to death. None but the cruellest hunter would shoot one. But as night fell on the road from Kismayu to Mogadishu I desperately needed one dead.

At the mercy of four uptight gunmen who, given that I had pockets full of dollars and was wearing a pair of jeans, could have stripped me and abandoned me to join the thousands of dying victims of hunger who line the main route north — or have just shot me for fun — male bonding seemed like the only way to get to the Somali capital, Mogadishu, wearing anything but my boxers.

After an argument over the fee for driving the 220 miles from the port city of Kismayu to Mogadishu I was advised against travelling with the gunmen whose pride had been hurt by hard-ball bargaining tactics and suggestions that they had been less than honourable. The four, two Abdillahis in the front, Hassan and Husain, average age 15, in the back either side of me with their G3 automatic rifles, were in an ugly mood as the car headed out of town. Small talk was met with grunts and tired sighs.

I saw my chance when we passed a wild pig near Jilib. Forgetting that the team was Muslim I suggested that a roast boar would be a tasty way to break the journey. The suggestion was taken as an insult.

"How about a dikdik? They're good to eat and not unclean!" Great idea. The tension in the vehicle eased as all eyes focused on the sides of the road for a victim. But Somalis cannot shoot straight. Keeping the sight close to the eyes means the bang is too loud, and in any case that is not the way Rambo does it: shoot from the hip or not at all is their motto.

There are lots of lucky dikdik on the road. Hassan and Husain could not hit them even as they stood wide-eyed 15 ft away. They missed about a dozen and became agitated. There was lots of shouting and pointing at me. So, abandoning pacifist scruples, I taught them to aim and after a couple of absurd misses a male dikdik was shot with a .762 bullet. Delight all round as the victim was gutted with my penknife.

As night began to fall the only vehicles on the road were those taking rice looted from the International Committee of the Red Cross to the capital and "technical vehicles" — as the United Nations now refers to the four-wheel-drive cars with an anti-aircraft gun on the back. Starving children and adults emerged out of the night dressed in rags. "This is your dikdik. Take it home and eat it. It's a gift for teaching us to shoot," a beaming Hassan said when the car pulled into a UN compound. "Please keep it, and please don't tell anyone else how to shoot straight," I replied. "Yes, I'll teach my brothers [aged eight and 10]." Hassan said. I didn't argue.

## Sentences in Timor criticised

Geneva: Trials conducted by the Indonesian government in the wake of killings in East Timor last year "turned justice on its head", a panel of judges and lawyers has ruled.

The International Commission of Jurists issued a report pointing out that Indonesian troops involved in the killings and in committing serious assaults were sentenced to a maximum of 18 months in jail while unarmed Timorese involved in a peaceful demonstration were given from five years to life.

At least 50 people died when troops fired on demonstrators at Santa Cruz cemetery in Dili, East Timor, last November. The troops claimed that they acted in self-defence. (Reuters)

## Synod decides

Johannesburg: South Africa's Anglicans will decide at their annual synod in Mbabane, Swaziland, if women should be ordained. Archbishop Desmond Tutu, head of the church in this country, strongly backs the idea.

## Japan accused

Tokyo: Japan's Imperial Army used mustard and other gases in China in the 1937-1945 war there, making 2,091 gas attacks and killing or injuring 80,000 troops and civilians. Kyodo news agency reported. (Reuters)

## Three killed

Bangkok: Three people died and 70 were hurt when a bomb exploded in a railway station at Hat Yai, south Thailand. Police blamed Muslim separatists demanding independence for four southern provinces. (Reuters)

## Pin-up U-turn

Peking: Scantily clad girls may soon return to the walls of Chinese homes and offices. In a further step away from socialism, the Press and Publication Administration has lifted a ban on calendars featuring women in bikinis. (Reuters)

Mersey — it must be something to do with the water



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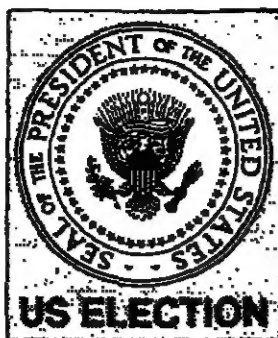


# Baker summoned to rescue Bush as the campaign loses way

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

JAMES Baker is resigning as US Secretary of State to take charge of President Bush's re-election campaign that has been resorting to caustic attacks on Hillary Clinton, condemnation of the media, and a retreat into divisive conservatism to cover its own disarray.

In an election campaign that already threatened to outdo 1988's for sheer ugliness, the Bush camp has suddenly turned strident and negative in the run-up to next week's Republican convention, prompted by mounting alarm at its failure to close Democratic candidate Bill Clinton's substantial poll lead. A Washington Post poll yesterday showed the Arkansas governor ahead of Mr Bush by 60 points to 34. That lead is even



wider than in the immediate aftermath of last month's Democratic convention, though the survey was conducted before this week's US-Israeli summit and North American free trade agreement generated positive publicity for the president. Mr

Bush trailed Michael Dukakis by 17 points after the Democrats' 1988 convention but had almost caught up by the time his party met.

The Republicans' new attacks on Mrs Clinton are reportedly a "pay back" for Tuesday's allegations that Mr Bush had an affair as vice-president — charges which have enraged the Bush family and which his campaign believes were inspired by the Democrats. Mr Bush pointedly told an interviewer yesterday that his wife had no aspirations to be "co-president" and considered it far more important to "emphasise the importance of family".

In Houston, Richard Bond, the Republican national chairman, resurrected a 1973 legal treatise written by Mrs Clinton to suggest the woman "advising Clinton on every move" had "likened marriage and the family to slavery", believed "kids should be able to sue their parents", and regarded the family "as a dependency relationship that deprives people of their rights". Mr Clinton said the attacks were "pitiful" and "ridiculous" and "distorted". The Republicans had "no vision for the future, so now they're trying to attack my wife."

Also in Houston, the Republican Party's platform committee has written a manifesto for adoption next week that is even more conservative on social issues than those of the Reagan Eighties. "If I didn't know any better, I would assume the platform was written by the religious right," said Martin Mawer of the Christian Action Network.

The document promotes America's "Judeo-Christian heritage", decries "same-sex marriages" and adoptions by homosexuals, calls for a ban on all abortions, regardless of circumstance, and opposes the distribution of condoms in schools to prevent AIDS.

The foreign policy section calls for patrols on the Mexican border to be equipped with "the tools, technologies and structures necessary to secure" it, which some read as meaning the construction of a wall. "They don't build light-houses on the border," said Bay Buchanan, sister of Mr Bush's conservative primary challenger, Patrick.

One of Mr Baker's most urgent tasks will be the presentation of positive reasons for re-electing Mr Bush, especially on the economic front, where a comprehensive new strategy is reportedly being prepared for unveiling at the convention. But Mr Baker must also take charge of a campaign effort notable for drift, gaffes, the lack of a coherent message, poor coordination with the White House, and the absence of that instinctive political feel for what works with the public, personified in 1988 by the late and pugnacious Lee Atwater.

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Iron-willed Baker, page 10  
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## MAN IN THE NEWS

### Call for magic of diplomatic wizard

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

James Baker could scarcely be relinquishing control of American foreign policy at a less propitious moment.

The Middle East peace talks that he so brilliantly brokered have reached a watershed. The West is on the point of military intervention in the former Yugoslavia. President Saddam Hussein of Iraq could provoke a fresh military confrontation at any moment. Without some breakthrough soon in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade talks to liberalise world trade they could collapse.

"If ever there was an urgent need for a steady hand on the tiller it is now," said one European diplomat, dismayed by Mr Baker's departure. The new pilot is Lawrence Eagleburger, a 61-year-old career diplomat of great experience but poor health who does not command the same confidence as his predecessor, Mr Baker. President Bush's closest friend and adviser, was regarded as the most powerful and successful Secretary of State since Henry Kissinger.

The nagging worry about Mr Eagleburger is that his long and deep personal connections with Yugoslavia affect his judgement. From 1977 to 1981 he was ambassador in Belgrade where he was close to Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian leader then head of Serbia's largest bank. In 1984 Mr Eagleburger left the State Department and pursued business dealings with a Serbian carmaker and a Slovene bank.

Mr Baker lured Mr Eagleburger back in 1988 as his principal deputy where

he recused himself from official dealings with Yugoslavia until Mr Baker asked him to take charge of it in February 1990. The principal charge levelled against Mr Eagleburger is that he remained wedded too long to the old, unified Yugoslavia until nationalist passions exploded.

Mr Baker has a reputation for leaving jobs just before things go wrong — he left the Treasury just before the Savings and Loan scandal — but in this instance his departure robs him of what could have proved his greatest achievement, a breakthrough in the seemingly intractable Arab-Israeli conflict.

After the Gulf war he made eight exhausting tours of the Middle East and finally got Arabs and Israelis sitting at the same table for the first time since Israel's creation. The worry now is that the talks will lose their momentum.

Under his watch and aided by his efforts, democracy has replaced war as the norm in Central America. Germany has been united and kept in NATO and the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union has been managed without the catastrophes some feared.

There have been failures. Mr Baker first recognised the need to deal with Mikhail Gorbachev while he survived in power, but the administration clung to him and ignored Boris Yeltsin for too long. The most conspicuous error was America's pre-war support for Iraq and failure to ward off the invasion of Kuwait.



Cover versions: Elvis Presley impersonators from around the world competing in Memphis as part of an annual tribute to the singer

## Exiles wary as Peking says Tibet's isolation will end

FROM AGENCY FRANCE-PRESSE IN PEKING

THE Chinese authorities have said they will open Tibet completely to the outside world. The region's Communist party committee and government decided on July 14 to "turn from a closed or semi-closed economy to active participation in domestic and international commerce", the *Tibet Daily* said in its August 3 edition.

However, Tibetan leaders in exile in India gave a warning yesterday that the reports could be a ploy to resettle more Chinese in Tibet. Tibetan exiles would welcome the reforms only if they benefited the native inhabitants of Tibet, a leader said, adding that Tibet-



ans should not be forced into a minority in their homeland. Migyur Dorji, a Delhi spokesman for the Dalai Lama, said there had been no official reaction yet from Dharamsala, the northern Indian

town where the Tibetan spiritual leader lives.

The official newspaper, received in Peking yesterday, announced an "all-round opening to the outside world". The government will offer foreign investment incentives, direct air links with Peking, Kathmandu and Hong Kong, and will do all it can to promote tourism. It will also expand border trade with Nepal and other countries.

The decision followed the spirit of Deng Xiaoping's reform talks during the Chinese senior leader's tour of southern China early this year. The newspaper gave a warning against "continuing to use leftist and old ideas to look at this decision".

Mr Deng, 87, called for faster economic reform and opening to the outside world, arguing that only a rising standard of living can convince sceptical Chinese of the merits of the socialist system. Although the *Tibet Daily* did not cite Mr Deng's statement directly, the Communist authorities were apparently trying to use his strategy to weaken the region's Buddhist separatist movement.

But as in the rest of China, Tibet's leaders will face unrest if their open-door policy results in a more enlightened public and economic reforms meet opposition, observers said. The Chinese People's Liberation Army took over Tibet in 1951 and the nominally autonomous government has kept it largely closed while repressing anti-Chinese demonstrations.

## Virtuoso of sound and silence dies

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

JOHN Cage, the virtuoso avant-garde composer who died of a stroke in New York on Wednesday at the age of 79, always considered himself profoundly unmusical. "I can't keep a tune," he once wrote. "In fact, I have no talent for music."

The son of an inventor, he was himself always more of an inventor and theoretician than a musician. In the 1930s and 1940s he began experimenting with 12-tone music and electrically produced sounds; by the 1950s he was composing pieces that left the sounds produced to individual performers.

"No instrument" was so bizarre or mundane as to be banned from John Cage's orchestra. For his *Sonatas and Interludes for Prepared Piano*, probably his most popular work, he took a piano and inserted nails, paper, bolts, rubber bands and wood into the strings; for *OYO* he sliced vegetables, put them in a blender, and drank the juice. In his 4'33, divided into three movements, a pianist sits at the keyboard for four minutes and 33 seconds — in silence.

While sometimes downright mischievous, he radically altered the way modern music is understood and performed, and inspiring musicians as different as Philip Glass, Frank Zappa and the Grateful Dead.

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Obituary, page 13

## Sanctions on Libya to remain

New York: The United Nations Security Council decided yesterday to maintain the air and arms embargo imposed on Libya because of its failure to co-operate after the trial of two men accused of the Lockerbie bombing (James Bone writes). In a statement issued after the first 120-day review of the UN sanctions regime, the council president said the conditions did not exist for lifting the sanctions.

Libya has yet to surrender the two Lockerbie suspects to stand trial in Britain or America or to offer full co-operation with a French investigation into the bombing of a second airliner six months after Pan Am 103 was brought down over Scotland in December 1988.

**Begum wins**  
Dhaka: Bangladesh's government of 18 months survived a no-confidence motion in parliament by 58 votes to 122 after Begum Khalida Zia, the prime minister, defended her handling of the country's economy and a tribal insurgency.

**King barred**  
Geneva: Romania has refused to allow ex-king Michael to enter the country before parliamentary and presidential elections on September 27 for fear that his visit, which was to begin tomorrow, might arouse political passions. (Reuters)

## Victim found

Los Angeles: Demolition crews working at the site of a burnt-out department store found the charred remains of the 53rd victim of the Los Angeles riot. Police said the body, found under several feet of debris, could be that of a looter. (AP)

## Rebels defiant

Tbilisi: Georgia sent 3,000 troops to hunt rebels who rejected an ultimatum to free Roman Jvenisadze, the kidnapped interior minister. The rebels, who support the deposed president Zviad Gamsakhurdia, vowed to continue the fight. (Reuters)

## Smoking ban

Kuala Lumpur: Malaysia is to ban all cigarette advertising and stop tobacco sales to anyone under 18 by the end of the year. Smoking will be banned in air-conditioned restaurants. Warnings on packets will be more explicit. (Reuters)

## Rape alleged

Manila: Thousands of Asian maids had been raped and abused by Kuwaiti employers, and the government, restored after Operation Desert Storm, has done little to stop it. Middle East Watch, the human rights group, said. (AP)

## Pig's trotter

Sydney: A farmer rammed his tractor into a horse-box to rescue Penny, his pet pig, which was being taken to a research centre after women complained she attacked them. Penny is now on the run. (Reuters)

## Walesa warns against strike tactics

FROM ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW

POLAND was heading towards a general strike yesterday as the government refused to give way to demands for radical wage increases in state-owned factories.

Although President Walesa emphasised that there was "now a different Poland", the parallels with the August 1980 strikes against the communist government were becoming all too apparent: an inter-factory strike committee has been set up and has drawn up 21 largely political demands aimed at the government rather than employers. Militant farmers are backing the workers — supplying them with meat and drink — and are threatening to block Poland's border with the West if the general strike is declared.

The most serious strikes are at the FSM car factory outside Warsaw and at the copper mines. Fiat is due to take a 90 per cent stake in the FSM factory and shoulder most of its debts. But the strikers, demanding 6.5 million zlotys (£260) a month — more than twice the average wage — yesterday barred Italian workers from entering the premises and may yet wreck the deal. The copper miners are insisting that President Walesa talk to them directly, but he said there could be no such negotiations unless they first suspended their protest.

The strikes are not organised by the mainstream

Solidarity union. Instead, the breakaway group, Solidarity 80, has joined forces with the former communist unions and a radical farmers' group called Self-Defence to form a broad rejection front against government policies. They oppose wage curbs on state industry, want a greater say in privatisation, demand a minimum monthly wage of at least £50 for every worker, a revocation of housing subsidies, higher pensions, protection of local markets against imported goods, help for indebted farmers, and political trials for all those who have "wrecked the Polish economy".

The Solidarity union supports most of these demands, but is less eager to plunge into a battle with a government whose ministers have roots in the Solidarity movement. Solidarity and the new front will decide at the weekend whether to go ahead with preparations for a general strike to paralyse Poland.

President Walesa yesterday said that he understood the strikers' problems, but they had chosen the wrong moment. Moreover, it was misguided to aim the protests at the government of Hanna Suchocka, which has only just been sworn into office. The president said: "I believe in the people's wisdom. If they are approached in the right way, I am myself the biggest striker of the last 50 years. I am sure it



Suchoka: need for industrial reforms

is the strikers who are in the right, but the way they are expressing themselves is not compatible with the epoch we are living in." The protests of August 1980, he said, were inevitable because there was no other way of expressing workers' anger; in a democratic society, other solutions had to be devised.

Recalling that Solidarity's struggle has led Poland to regaining freedom and democracy, Mr Walesa said the understood workers' dissatisfaction and blamed a slow pace of political and economic reforms for the present social conflicts. "Solidarity's mission continues. Let us prove that it is not only a legend," he said. The strikes have performed one useful task: they have focused the attention of the

Polish government on the problems of state industry which were neglected by the earlier Solidarity governments. The Suchocka government seems to have realised that there is an urgent need for a comprehensive industrial policy which would reform and restructure the public sector. Previous administrations have relied on privatisation as a cure-all, but there have been few buyers for state factories, which have been kept alive only by heavy borrowing from the Treasury.

The wave of labour unrest started in late July with a strike at the state copper company in Legnica, southwest Poland, that has stopped work at four mines and several mills. Later there was a three-week action at the FSM car factory in the southern city of Tychy. More than a dozen other brief stoppages and continuing protests have brought to life a national strike committee formed by a range of formerly communist-allied and radical labour federations.

A recession in the state industries, declining real incomes and a 13 per cent unemployment rate are the main reasons for worker dissatisfaction and growing social apathy that accompany the two-year-old austerity economic reforms. The government, faced with a high budget deficit, has little room for manoeuvre to satisfy workers and is studying a "social contract" with the unions.

## Perot's claim of death threat rejected as James Bond tale

Vietnam has dismissed as absurd a claim by the American billionaire Ross Perot that Hanoi sent agents in 1970 to kill him and his family, calling it a tale from the exploits of the fictional spy James Bond.

The foreign ministry also denied claims made by Mr Perot in Washington that Hanoi kept some American prisoners after the Vietnam war. It said all prisoners were freed in 1973 after Vietnam signed the Paris Peace Accord. The ministry again firmly denied it was still holding Americans captive.

Mr Perot told a US Senate committee this week that he was convinced that Laos, together with Vietnam, kept US prisoners to help obtain \$3.25 billion (£1.69 billion) in reconstruction aid that they believed President Richard Nixon had promised.

Doctors found former President Reagan, 81, and his wife, Nancy, 71, in excellent health after the couple's annual physical examinations, a family spokeswoman said.

An American group with an exclusive franchise to develop the Western Samoan home and grave of Robert Louis

Stevenson, author of *Treasure Island*, told Radio New Zealand that it would do everything to retain its beauty and peace in the face of plans to build a cablecar to the tomb, among the great beauty spots in the Pacific.

Song Dandan, one of China's leading stage actresses, has refused to accept the nation's most valued award for theatre, saying in an open letter reported on the front page of the official *People's Daily* that she could not accept the Plum Blossom prize for 1992 because the judges were crooked.

The Chinese foreign minister, Qian Qichen, will visit Israel in mid-September, the first senior Chinese leader to go to the Jewish state which Peking recognised only this year, for talks on bilateral issues and the Middle East peace process, diplomatic sources said in China.

Marvin Mischelson, 69, the flamboyant Los Angeles lawyer who coined the term "palimony", after winning a number of celebrity cases for people who lived with Hollywood stars without being mar-

ried to them, has been charged with filing false tax returns, which he denies.

Home Box Office, the television cable network, has announced in Los Angeles that it will carry Michael Jackson's first televised concert for a reported \$20 million (£10.4 million).

Kwamfom Lin, a blue movie actress helping the Thai government's election promotion programme by attending rallies, says the workload has caused her breasts to shrink more than two inches, threatening her chance of future film roles.

The American House of Representatives has voted to release to the public virtually all US government documents about the 1963 assassination of President Kennedy, including stacks of sealed files on the shooting.

Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, is to visit Moscow in early September, his first visit to the Russian foreign ministry announced.



## Brutality of Bosnia camps condemned by Red Cross

FROM ALAN MCGREGOR IN GENEVA  
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

AS THE 53-nation UN Human Rights Commission moved yesterday towards deciding to send a special investigator to the former Yugoslavia, the International Committee of the Red Cross for the first time confirmed reports of what has been happening at detention camps in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Casting aside its habitual confidentiality and discretion, the Red Cross issued a statement asserting categorically that over the past few days visits to camps there by its delegates have shown that "innocent civilians are being arrested and subjected to inhumane treatment, part of a policy of forced population transfers carried out on a massive scale and marked by systematic use of brutality".

The Red Cross said all

factions in the Bosnian conflict were guilty of inhumanity and brutality in running their detention centres. The Geneva-based organisation had visited 12 camps, run by Muslims, Croats and Serbs, since July 7 and all violated the 1949 Geneva conventions.

"Among the long list of methods used," it added, "are harassment, murder, confiscation of property, deportation and taking of hostages, thus reducing individuals to the level of bargaining counters, all in violation of international law."

The statement pointed out that, while the 103 Red Cross delegates in former Yugoslavia have had access to only a limited number of prisoners of war, places of detention were "crowded with terrified civilians".

The statement was issued as Claude Caradec, a Red Cross representative, was telling the Human Rights Commission that the factions in the Yugoslav fighting had not yet managed to contain their "reciprocal hatred and violence".

Addressing the extraordinary meeting of the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva, John Bolton, US assistant secretary of state, accused the Serb-led rump state of Yugoslavia of behaving like "the last fascist state" in Europe. "To the perpetrators of the appalling acts now alleged, I say that the international community took a vow when it realised what had been committed by Nazism in Europe during the second world war — never again."

America was pushing for the 53-nation commission to appoint a UN rapporteur to investigate human rights violations in the former Yugoslavia and report back to the UN Security Council and the General Assembly by the end of the month.

As representative of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Branko Brankovic said it was to be hoped the commission's session would not serve to make his country the victim of a propaganda war. There was no proof of the existence of concentration camps on its territory.

On behalf of the European Community, Martin Morand, the British ambassador, said they condemned unreservedly the so-called ethnic cleansing. Chilling though it was, with echoes of the past, that phrase did not convey the horror and scale of human suffering caused by a deliberate policy of persecution and forced relocation for no other reason than a person's ethnic origin.

Ejup Ganic, vice-president of Bosnia-Herzegovina, said that in "vicious and systematic" human rights abuses by Serbia and Montenegro tens of thousands of persons had lost their lives, more than 150,000 injured and 1.8 million displaced.

He alleged that more than 100 "concentration camps" had been established with 120,000 people. In the town of Bratunac, Serbian extremists and the Yugoslav army had evicted 20,000 people, with 1,300 executed, including 500 shot in the school gymnasium.

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Peace mission: Douglas Hogg, a minister of state in the Foreign Office, arriving at the United Nations headquarters in Sarajevo yesterday to finalise arrangements for an international conference on Yugoslavia in London later this month. Mr Hogg met President Izetbegovic of Bosnia and later said that, if the conference made progress, there was "a chance, just a

chance of getting a ceasefire". Mr Hogg said he told the president there would be no Western military intervention: "I explained very clearly there is no cavalry coming over the hill."

## Muslim youth claims Serbs killed one captive a day

Victim of Omarska tells of terror tactics in detention, writes Tim Judah from Prijedor

ESAD does not go out any longer. He sits terrified in his parents' house, waiting for the signal that Muslims of Prijedor can leave. But being inside does not offer much protection either. Esad was having a bath when the police arrived to pick him up. It was his 17th birthday.

"They said they wanted to ask me some questions and that it would only take 15 minutes." After a beating at the police station, Esad was sent to Omarska, the Serb detention centre which has come to symbolise the terror state of northern Bosnia. Esad said it was run by a former Yugoslav army officer called Radmilo Zeljajic.

"I heard them waiting, then shots, then silence. Next morning I saw three corpses. A sheet had been thrown over them." Esad said this shooting happened on his first day in the camp in late May. "It happened every day, brother — but after the first there was just one body every morning. We would pass it on the way to get food."

For almost two months, Esad endured Omarska where the captives were packed like sardines. "When

we first got there we were given nothing to eat for five days. After that we got bread and macaroni, but sometimes there was nothing for 52 hours. There were five barracks each with 670 men in them. We were lying on top of each other or just sitting there waiting to be beaten."

Esad's grim tale confirms the emerging picture that the network of Serb detention centres was, and continues to be, brutal and murderous, but they are far from being the Nazi-style "death camps" as some would have it. The Omarska camp, now being emptied, was situated in the buildings of an iron mine. Asked about allegations that men had been crammed into cages, he said: "I heard about that, but I did not see it." He said that he did not believe that many more than the one

corpse he saw every day had been killed, "because we would have heard it".

Esad said his arrest occurred when there had been fighting near Prijedor. But he had no idea why he, a schoolboy, had been taken away nor why he had been released. In almost two months in Omarska, and briefly in two other centres, he was questioned once for 15 minutes about whether he owned a rifle.

Esad said that about 30 women and a small number of Serbs were also detained at the camp. "One was a friend of mine. The story was that he had been smuggling arms to Muslims. I saw him once and after that I did not see him again. His (Serb) girl friend was also there and she said: 'Igor has been killed'. I think he was beaten to death."

"They said they would kill anyone who said anything about Omarska. When I was released they said 'forget Omarska ... it does not exist'."

Piecing together the stories of people like Esad, and refugees who have fled from northern Bosnia, it is clear that the last week in May was critical. As world attention focused on the fighting in Sarajevo, police swept through Prijedor and many other places arresting Muslim men at random. The purpose now seems clear. A few were fighters, but most were detained to prevent them joining any anti-Serb resistance.

Above all, the camps and the stories they spawned proved to be an effective terror tactic. They have been a key part in the Serbs' policy of "ethnic cleansing", with some of the prisoners exchanged for Serbs held hostage by Croats and Muslims.

The camps, too, created a mass psychosis among the Muslims, leading to a rush to leave "voluntarily", as Serb leaders later claimed. For the planners of the cruel tactic, the policy has proved to be hugely successful.

Enquiry reopens: The investigation into the failed coup of August 19, 1991, was reopened on Wednesday at the request of the alleged plotters, currently in prison awaiting trial. Tass yesterday reported Valentin Stepankov, the Russian prosecutor, as saying, (AFP)

## Sarajevo convoy reaches safety

FROM ROBERT SEELY IN SPLIT

AFTER a two-day ordeal travelling through Bosnia's mountain passes, 320 women and children from the capital, Sarajevo, arrived safely on the Dalmatian coast yesterday.

The hungry and weary children, some already orphans, others with mothers or grandparents, entered the Croatian-held coastal town of Split after a night spent perilously close to the present front line in the Bosnian chapter of Yugoslavia's civil war. "I feel free but sad. I have left my city for safety but I have also left everything I have behind," said Selma Pozar, 33, a refugee who arrived yesterday with her seven-month-old baby girl.

For this tiny fraction of Sarajevo's population, the nightmare of bombing, snipers and shelling has ended although for thousands more the daily horror of life in the Bosnian capital remains unchanged. "They are not going to survive the winter in the city. It is bad now even while help is arriving," said another refugee mother, Andriana Imseovic who brought her 11-month-old baby boy. The boy's father was wounded a fortnight ago in fighting around the city.

As they left Sarajevo on Tuesday afternoon their send-off, according to the women, was typical of the bestial conditions into which the city has sunk. As the five-coach

convoy snaked its way out of the city it was met by rounds of gunfire. "I was so terrified. Even as we left there was shelling and as the lorries moved out there was heavy machine-gun fire in the area. I think they were shooting over us," said Samka Kaljalic, a school cook.

All had tales to tell of the surreal existence in Sarajevo. Some had arrived there as refugees, others had lost parents. A few of the children on the buses, according to the trip's organiser, were already orphans, although the news had yet to be broken to them.

Admira Smajic, a teenager, and her younger brother, Admir, have been, in all probability, orphaned. Their mother was killed on July 17 on the porch of their house near Sarajevo airport by shrapnel. Their father was last reported to be fighting on one of the front lines in the city.

Miss Smajic talked without emotion about her mother's death and described her life in Sarajevo. "After four months of war you get used to it, and although I know there is no sense in this war, I don't know what to say about it." Her brother added: "The evenings were the worst. We knew there was 100 per cent certainty that the bombing would continue."

Some orphans were too frightened to make the trip and refused to go, remaining in Sarajevo.



Bolton: branded Serbs the last fascists

## Nato rules out instant solution

BY MICHAEL EVANS  
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

SEVERAL weeks of planning and discussion will follow the vote by the United Nations Security Council, approving the use of force to protect humanitarian aid convoys to Bosnia, before America and its European allies are ready to send troops and aircraft in a military operation.

Nato sources said yesterday that there was no "instant package of measures" to be put into action. A series of meetings by the various defence and security organisations will be needed.

Yesterday officials from the nine-nation Western European Union met in Rome to discuss what forces would be needed to impose a naval blockade on Serbia and its ally, Montenegro, and to set up protected supply lines from the Adriatic to Sarajevo. However, Salvo Ando, the Italian defence minister, expressed strong reservations about sending ground troops to open "humanitarian corridors". He said that it would be wiser to cut off all supplies to Serbia.

Senior officials of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, also met yesterday in Prague to discuss the same subject, and today ambassadors from Nato's North Atlantic Council will be meeting in Brussels to review contingency plans for providing aid protection in Bosnia.



Possible partition of Bosnia and Herzegovina

## Kremlin boycott upsets powerful industrial lobby

RUSSIAN leaders yesterday angered the powerful opposition industrial lobby by boycotting a gathering of about 2,000 directors of state enterprises, industrial managers and trade union leaders from throughout the country.

The conference, in central Moscow, had been expected to issue a formal call for the government to resign as well as to threaten non-co-operation with reforms unless wide-ranging adjustments were made to favour state industries and their employees. In the event the government's boycott threw the meeting into disarray, with delegates spending almost as much time attacking each other as attacking the government.

Several resolutions adopted were milder than had been predicted. Among them was a denial that the industrialists had any political objectives.

One key figure emerged particularly weakened. Arkadi Volsky, the influential head of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, who

Russia's leaders, seemingly on orders from Mr Yeltsin, snubbed a meeting seeking changes in the reform process, Mary Dejevsky writes from Moscow

is acknowledged as effectively the leader of the industrialists and a possible future prime minister, kept a low profile throughout the day.

He conceded that he would have preferred the meeting to be postponed until the autumn, when it could have been better prepared. This was apparently also President Yeltsin's wish and possibly explained the government boycott. Mr Volsky was also subject to several public attacks from speakers on the reformist wing, who recalled his past as a Communist "central-committee apparition" and accused him of obstructing reforms.

The power of the "industrialists" derives from their ability to form opinion at local and factory level and to create

conditions that will cause or defuse unrest, as they choose. In April, for instance, Mr Volsky was reported as threatening the government by saying that he could have 90 per cent of Russian industry hit by strikes within 24 hours. As one delegate said: "We are the people who actually have to implement the reforms."

The unity shown by Russian leaders in staying away from yesterday's gathering was very unusual and suggested that they were under orders from Mr Yeltsin himself. The government is in fact politically divided, largely because it was augmented in May by three nominees of the industrialists, including Vladimir Shumilov, the first deputy prime minister.

Given that the meeting had

been convened, at least nominally, under the auspices of parliamentary committees, the fact that not even the nominees of the industrialists themselves turned up was deemed a deliberate snub by many of the delegates. But it was the absence of Yegor Gaidar, the acting prime minister, which was taken hardest.

The organisers of the conference, two parliamentary committees dealing with economic reform and industry, had confidently expected Mr Gaidar or at least Mr Shumilov to report to the conference and had even included time for such a report in their printed agenda.

Proposals made by speakers on the first day diverged widely. Some, especially from the defence sector, called for a return to central planning and central purchasing, while others argued that the trend to regionalism was irreversible and should be assisted. Some concentrated their fire on the government. "The government can still get us out of this

crisis — if it resigns right away, en bloc," one furious delegate said.

More universal demands were for a reduction in tax levels, slower privatisation, although it has hardly begun, and the restoration of many price subsidies. These formed the basis of a concluding document addressed to the government.

The meeting also formed a co-ordinating council to represent the industrialists and to oversee pricing and purchasing policy at the level of producers. The disagreements which surfaced yesterday, however, suggest that the council will not be as powerful as many reformists had feared.

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|   | 8.15         | 6.11               |                   |
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# Can the miracle man save Bush?

Martin Fletcher asks how Jim Baker was lured back on the campaign trail

One day James Baker will learn. In the July of presidential election years, he should not go fishing in Wyoming with George Bush.

He did it in 1988. One prominent Democrat suggested he had gone "in case George was too squeamish to bait his own hook", but Mr Baker himself got hooked, his erstwhile Texan partner cajoling him into leaving the Treasury to save a floundering presidential campaign.

Mr Baker did it this year, and the Secretary of State is again returning reluctantly to the political trenches. Washington's champion evader of messy situations has no wish to leave the rarified world of top-flight diplomacy, but his patriotic pal of three decades is in desperate straits.

Cold, cerebral and iron-willed, not hampered by awkward principles, and possessed of the sort of frozen smile you give a dentist, this master strategist has a matchless record as a backroom puppeteer.

Mr Baker steered Gerald Ford from a 33-point deficit to within a hair of victory against Jimmy Carter in 1976 (his walkie-talkie code name at that year's convention was "Miracle Man"). As the manager of Mr Bush's 1980 bid for the Republican presidential nomination, he was shrewd enough to pull his friend from the race and cool his rhetoric in time for Ronald Reagan to make him his running mate. He handled Reagan's inevitable re-election in 1984. Four years later "the Velvet Hammer" conjured Mr Bush's landslide victory over Michael Dukakis from a 17-point deficit, reportedly even arranging covert Japanese co-operation to bolster the American economy (typically, Mr Baker avoided all blame for the most negative campaign anyone can remember).

In August 1988, the Bush campaign was every bit as muddled as it is now ("sophomores" was Mr Baker's private opinion of those he took over from); the candidate was just as vacuous, and the polls nearly as dismal. If Mr Baker could make the dead rise then, why not now? He may indeed be able to. Commentators here point out that Bill Clinton's 20-point lead is made of soufflé, not steel, and that in this most volatile of elections, half of the voters have changed their allegiance in the past six weeks. Mr Bush is showing belated signs of an appetite for red meat, the party convention is yet to come, and as Richard Nixon recently observed: "Every time you write off George Bush, he makes the big play."

But Washington's Democratic government-in-exile has not been so excited for 16 years. Carter has been already rushing to buy the latest Plum Book (formally entitled *US Government Policy and Support Positions*) which lists all the political patronage posts that the putative President Clinton

would need to fill. Yes Mr Bush recovered last time, but this is not 1988 they say. Mr Reagan's "Morning in America" has become a filthy economic night. The middle classes are squealing. Mr Clinton, unlike Mr Dukakis, runs towards the sound of gunfire. If Mr Baker had to spin gold from straw in 1988, this time he has to spin it from straw that has in the four intervening years turned black and mildewed.

Imposing his own iron discipline and direction on a rudderless campaign is the least of Mr Baker's problems. He has to take Mr Bush in hand, and he is reputedly the only man in America who can swear in the president's face. Above all he must invent a compelling reason why Mr Bush should be given a second term.

Even in 1988 Mr Bush was not swept into office on a wave of enthusiasm. He was the "wimp" who reminded women of their first husbands. He was elected because he was not Mr Dukakis and because he promised to continue the Reagan revolution, which even then was on its last legs. Within two years Mr Bush had reneged on his "no new taxes" vow, negating one of the Republicans' two most potent electoral trump cards, and the other vanishing when the Evil Empire finally collapsed.

Now, as even Mr Reagan reportedly observed, Mr Bush "doesn't seem to stand for anything". One recent poll showed that a third of Americans could not think of a single Bush accomplishment, while another fifth could think of the Gulf war only (although in fairness that reflects more on the respondents than Mr Bush).

One American columnist recently called the Bush presidency "the most risk-averse in memory. He has courted popularity by skirting controversy... He seems to stand for nothing and thereby offends almost everyone who cares deeply about anything". In 1988, Americans plumped for the devil they knew, but this time, with national pessimism at record levels, they may well prefer the devil they don't.

Some Washington analysts even argue — prematurely — that the campaign is beyond redemption, and that Mr Bush's best hope was for Mr Baker to have stayed at the State Department. That way he might conceivably have conjured a Middle East breakthrough just before election day, so enabling the president to trumpet the fact that both the Cold War, which began in 1947, and the Arab-Israeli conflict, dating from 1948, were resolved largely on his watch.

From Mr Baker's point of view, there would have been an additional advantage in such an outcome. Instead of risking his reputation on another perilous and dirty campaign, he would have become favourite for one position that he is believed to covet: the next Republican presidential nominee.



Baker engineering his own candidacy?

A service in memory of an Anglican priest marked his fight against apartheid, says John Grigg

## A very practical faith

white man, with the struggle against white injustice, he was a lonely pioneer.

Born in Sussex, the son of an Anglican parson, he was ordained in 1930 in the diocese of Chichester, by Bishop George Bell, whose successor presided at the dedication ceremony. He had already had his first spell in South Africa, sent there (like Rhodes, ironically) for the sake of his health. During that first visit he had a glimpse of African townships and of African labour on farms. But mainly he was occupied in theological training, for which he was not at all suited.

Scott was never noted for scholarship. By temperament he was mystical, moral and poetical, and it became clear that his mission as a priest was overwhelmingly that of a champion of human rights.

Shortly before the second world war, he spent two years as a chaplain in India, where he revered

Gandhi but was not immediately converted to his doctrines of non-violence. When the war broke out, he had no illusion that *satyagraha* would work against Hitler. He joined the RAF as aircrew, but was invalided out.

One important quality he shared with Gandhi was a sense of humour. Most dedicated spirits are deficient in it, but Scott, like Gandhi, was a genuinely humorous man. Though intensely serious about life, he did not take himself too seriously. (When my wife and I asked him to marry us in 1958, he agreed but warned us that he was accident-prone at services, since at his first funeral he had managed to slip into the grave on top of the coffin.)

After leaving the RAF, he returned to South Africa and gradually became involved in campaigning on behalf of non-whites. He was sent to prison, and later

prosecuted again for living in a black shanty-town outside Johannesburg. After responding to an appeal from the Herero tribe in South-West Africa, he fought almost singlehandedly against South Africa's attempt to incorporate the territory. Excluded from South Africa, he carried on the fight at the United Nations. He did not live to see triumph. Nevertheless, he is as responsible as anyone for the existence of Namibia as an independent state. Back in England he became a strong nuclear disarmament, which I for one regret, but his reputation will surely stand on what he did in and for Africa.

Why is he commemorated at Kingston-lea? He was hoping to move there from London at the time of his death in 1983, and his ashes are buried in the churchyard. A small slab marks the spot, with a terse inscription recording his name and dates, and the mere

fact that he was a priest. The village was not his birthplace, but evidently it attracted him. Sussex may seem very remote from Africa, but Scott is not the only link. While he was defying the authorities in South Africa, a future black African leader was living quietly in a Sussex village not far from Kingston. Jomo Kenyatta spent the war at Storrington, near Worthing. He did farm work and was popular in the local pub, though not accepted for the Home Guard (a pity, because he would have been an exotic addition to the cast of "Dad's Army"). The landscape reminded him of Kenya.

Sussex was the county to which Rudyard Kipling, the bard of *Empire*, withdrew in the latter part of his life. The man who had told his countrymen:

Go bind your sons to exile  
To serve your captives' need  
To serve your captives' need  
ended up urging them to

"Take of English earth as much  
As either hand may rightly clutch."  
One could hardly fail to be conscious of a similar contradiction — or strange affinity — in Kingston church the other afternoon.

## The university of the future

Matthew d'Ancona on the LSE's world-beating plans



Founders' vision: Sidney and Beatrice Webb wanted the school to be a social sciences think-tank

English snobbery has never been kind to the London School of Economics and Political Science. When Jim Hacker proudly announced, in one of those classic *Yes, Minister* moments, that he was an LSE graduate, Sir Humphrey replied: "Oh minister, I am sorry. A cruel joke, but then when was English snobbery fair?"

Much pride and prejudice, therefore, is locked up in the LSE's £65 million bid for County Hall on London's south bank. If it is approved, the school will celebrate its centenary in 1995 on a new and majestic site just across the river from parliament.

Installed in the old offices of Ken Livingstone, John Ashworth, the LSE's can-do director, will be able to realise his grand vision for expansion in a building hailed by *The Times* after its royal opening in 1922 as "in every way worthy of the great municipality which has grown up round the historic capital of the Empire". Anxious competition with the ancient universities would soon be a distant memory in this august palace of intellect and government: the English *École normale d'administration* for which ministers and officials have hankered for so long.

A few months ago, of course, it seemed certain that County Hall (until 1986 the headquarters of the old Greater London Council) would fall into the hands of a Japanese developer intent on using it as a family and business-class hotel. But things look different now, thanks to much political arm-twisting. Bernard Levin's championship of his *alma mater* on this page, and an old-fashioned ministerial fudge.

Last month, Michael Howard, the environment secretary, told the London Residuary Body, the quango running the GLC garage sale, that it could not proceed without his consent, so enabling the LSE to put in an 11th-hour bid for the coveted site. Not surprisingly, Mr Shirayama, the prospective hotelier from Osaka, is furious that the LSE's political influence has scuppered what seemed a legitimate deal. The legal sabre-rattling is well under way.

But why bother to buck the market for the sake of a specialist insti-

tution which, according to one critic, churns out a sinister "incosious race" of narrow-minded graduates? The plea of "public interest" advanced by the LSE, after all, is more often than not the laughable refuge of those who cannot think of anything better to say.

Yet in this case it is a plea used judiciously, for few academic institutions have woven themselves into the affairs of the nation so successfully or cultivated contact with the worlds of business and government so assiduously. The cramped buildings off the Aldwych have played host to some of the century's great contributors to democratic life, tutoring the officials and statesmen of the future: Frederick Hayek, Karl Popper, R.H. Tawney, Michael Oakeshott and Harold Laski.

While other universities have sprawled and added departments

like extensions to a suburban home, the LSE has remained true to the objectives of its founders. When Sidney and Beatrice Webb founded the school in 1895 they wanted to create a high-powered think-tank specialising in the social sciences. They would have understood immediately Professor Ashworth's vision of a "European social sciences park".

"The pundits solemnly declared that the existing provision met the entire demand," Sidney recalled with relish three decades later. "Only young men in a hurry could regard the idea of a single professor of political economy as being as obsolete as the idea of a single professor of natural history."

Young men in a hurry, of course, have often earned the school a reputation for boldness. Even Sir Alfred Sherman was a communist

when an LSE undergraduate, and the student union won few friends when it elected the convict Winston Silcott as president in 1989.

Yet academic diversity has always won the day. Despite its aggressively Fabian origins, the school's history was fondly written by the arch-individualist Hayek to mark its 50th anniversary. Today, the school's successful *communautaire* European Studies department co-exists happily with vocal anti-federalists Alan Sked, LSE *alumni* range from Virginia Bottomley and Sir Rhodes Boyson to Maurice Saatchi and Tony Banks.

Not that the school is to everyone's taste: the recollections of the Lithuanian writer Chaim Bermant on his experience at LSE begin "I hated the place..." But the sheer hard-edged glamour of the school, particularly to envious for-

eign observers, cannot be denied. In any case, it is surely worth paying a little homage to a college that has managed paradoxically to be both illustrious and obscure, an academic rabbit-warren hidden from view in Houghton St, a back street off the Aldwych. At the very least, a move to the Edwardian colonnades designed by Ralph Knott would end nearly a century of making do with "shedificos" and tiny lecture halls. One wonders with what envious eyes the London dons looked upon the genteel stone of Cambridge during their wartime evacuation to Peterhouse.

A change of scene would certainly cheer up their successors, apart from the handful of curious dissenters who seem to revel in the uncomfortable garret lifestyle. But, far more importantly, government support for migration to County Hall would signal to the university sector that ministers are serious in their ambitions for higher education. For the LSE battle-plan — to expand, double student numbers, focus research on proven strengths, and forge closer links with business and administration — is, quite simply, a blueprint for the future of British universities.

Already their paymasters are introducing new funding formulae encouraging institutions to specialise in teaching or research, and in subjects in which they have a track record. From now on, universities will have to pursue excellence in particular fields to keep their heads above water. The London School of Economics, often mocked in the past as parochial, will soon be matched elsewhere by specialist centres of management studies, engineering, and modern languages: a transformation of the idea of a university which badly needs a *coup de theatre* to sell itself to the public.

Thus the age of the all-round redbrick draws to a close. What better launch for the new era of business-sharp specialist universities than the reopening of the LSE in 1995? Which only leaves the question of the Houghton St site: a snip at £100 million, and — as some one mischievous don has pointed out — the ideal location for someone looking to set up a hotel in the centre of town. Mr Shirayama, please take note.

...and moreover

### PETER BARNARD

When Tolstoy sat down at his word-processor in 1863 he planned to run up a quick 200-page potboiler for Mills & Boon on account of needing the money to pay his poll-tax, for which he had been billed at the standard rate x 200 because of the size of his Volga estate. His attempt to claim this was a Volga estate *car having failed*, Tolstoy needed money in a hurry. Cash in a flash.

But Tolstoy was a lateral thinker. Something distracted him as he gazed through the double glazing in search of inspiration. Perhaps it was a passing girl in a pointed hat. "Very Napoleonic" thought Tolstoy. Six years later he finished *War and Peace*.

I find myself this morning in much the same position. More or less. Up to a point. Sort of. I had intended to write a fast 800 words detailing my recent correspondence with Norman Lamont, or Stormin' Norman as he is known to those of us who count ourselves among his closest friends, correspondence in which I posit a remarkable theory which would end the recession by this time tomorrow.

Boring? No point denying it. Gazing out of the window in search of inspiration I saw approaching a man in a floppy hat bearing a copy of *The Times*. A dread second passed slowly, during which I thought my reader had come to remunerate with me the things I make it up, but no. 'twas paper man. He handed me the newspaper. I opened same. On the back page of this section there rested across seven columns

a colour photo showing the North Bank at Arsenal's football stadium, which, for reasons to do with the building trade, will, from Saturday, contain a huge £150,000 mural showing 8,000 supporters wearing red. To compensate for the fact that people made of wood are not audible (pace *Eldorado*), Arsenal will amplify the noise made by real people on the South Bank to a level that will make it seem as if there are real people on the North Bank.

So there you are: somebody in the private sector has money to burn. And herein lies the germ, the very kernel, of a recession-busting scheme that knocks into a cocked unemployment statistic the idea that Stormin' so enthused over when I last wrote to him, on the 10th inst. A lot of chancellors would have marked me down as a nutter, but not Stormin'. He has vision where other people have bi-focals. His reply to the effect that changing the name of the United Kingdom to Gerpan by deed poll was under "the most active consideration" flopped out of my fax machine only minutes before I espied the back page of *The Times*. So forget that one, Stormin'. Try this one.

A cardboard cut out economy. We all know that what the economy needs is talking up. The feel-good factor, that is the thing. You walk into the supermarket. There are only 27 customers. This is not entirely a bad thing, because they are all queuing at the only checkout that is open. But you feel bad, even guilty. You put back the smoked salmon and pick up six frozen sausages.

You can afford the salmon and the sausages, but you have lost confidence. Feel good you do not. An empty supermarket aisle is as depressing as an empty North Bank. It is counter-consumerist. Whereas an aisle full of smiling cardboard people with all the most expensive items piled in their trolleys is, well, totally different. An inspiration. And, yes, what is that sound? It is the babble of happy shoppers, recorded on to CD and played over the public address system, along with the sound of small children playing volleyball with subergines. How inventive of the little sods.

I admit that queuing in the post office for one first class only to find you are talking to someone made out of an old cardboard box has its frustrations, but even now you will almost certainly be queuing at the wrong window. And under the scheme's lookalike refinement, we could at least have someone working looking at. Let us not underestimate the feel-good effects of begging for a vehicle excise licence (non-continuous ownership) renewal form from Kim Basinger as opposed to the present, er, charming but mature incumbent.

And somebody has to make these lookalikes. I reckon we need about 20 million customers and a million staff dotted about the country, in shops, restaurants — not that I claim to have invented cardboard waiters — car showrooms, haberdasheries and so on. We have nearly three million people looking for work. Tolstoy, Lamont... lateral thinkers need no further clue.

### New woman at the top

WHEN Baroness Thatcher left office, most MPs believed it would be a long time before they saw a woman running the country again. They were wrong. Yesterday, with unemployment soaring, troubles in the Balkans worsening and John Major and his team holidaying abroad, the most senior minister in Whitehall was Gillian Shephard.

The employment secretary, who has been hard at work at her desk since the election, was the only senior cabinet minister in London to handle the inevitable row about the latest rise in the jobless numbers. One of her assistants said: "We are feeling very self-righteous here."

She cut a lonely figure. Apart from Sir Patrick Mayhew, the newly promoted Northern Ireland Secretary, and Tony Newton, the Leader of the Commons, she was the only cabinet minister behind her desk.

Douglas Hurd and Kenneth Clarke are soaking up the sun. The Treasury, which is enjoying a high profile this summer, is being manned by its two most junior ministers, Tony Nelson and Stephen Dorrell. Norman Lamont is enjoying the delights of Tuscany and Michael Portillo, the only green shoot the Treasury has seen in a long time, is sunning himself in Barbados. Michael Heseltine has chosen bird-watching in the South Pacific over the heady delights of running the country, and Virginia Bottomley is in the Isle of Wight with her family.

But Labour is not well placed to pour scorn on the lack of experienced hands on the Whitehall tier this week. Analysis of John Smith's shadow cabinet shows that its most experienced member, in terms of



government office, is John Morris, the shadow attorney general. Now aged 60, Morris served on the 1964 frontbench, becoming secretary of state for Wales in 1974. The only other Labour frontbench politician with cabinet experience is John Smith, who was trade secretary in the Callaghan government — for a while.

● A six-year-old lurcher named Woolly has beaten a score of other canines to land a role with the Royal Shakespeare Company. Woolly will play the part of Crab in *Two Gentlemen of Verona*. His London debut will be at the Barbican in October, in the presence of the Princess Royal. All the proceeds will go to Hearing Dogs for the Deaf.

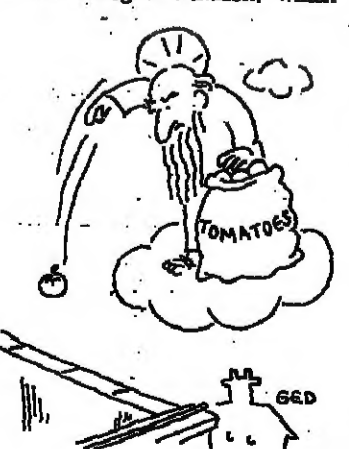
### Paper tigress

CHAMPAGNE society has lost one of its most sparkling members with the death of Lady "Bubbles" Rothermere. Sir David English, chairman of Lord Rothermere's company Associated Newspapers, says: "She was terrifically supportive in those bleak, early days when we relaunched the *Daily Mail*. She turned up to the launch party looking absolutely sensational in suede hotpants and cowboy boots. Very few of the staff knew who she was, but they all wanted to make her acquaintance. Messengers, sub-edi-

tors and reporters alike were all saying: 'Hello darling where do you work?' To which she replied: 'On the fourth floor as a consultant to the management.' Lord Rothermere and I, who had been waiting for her in my office finally found her leading a conga round the newsroom floor."

### Raise the roof

THE old rivalry between Glasgow and Edinburgh continues unabated. While tourists flock to Edinburgh for the Festival, Glaswegians point out that you don't have to go to Auld Reekie to see the stars. The Glasgow Pavilion, which



### Veggie burger

ALLEGATIONS that the vegetarian Bishop of Salisbury has approved the link between Salisbury Cathedral and the local McDonald's hamburger emporium has led to consternation among some of those best acquainted with the bishop, John Baker.

Jon Wynne-Tyson of Centaur Press says: "Only the other day the bishop told me of the problems he faced being a vegetarian in Spain." Centaur has just published a paperback edition of *The Duty of Mercy* and the *Sin of Cruelty to Brute Animals* by the 18th-century divine Humphry Primatt. The trenchant preface is by none other than John Baker. "I cannot believe he is sanguine about such close association with mammon," says Wynne-Tyson. "Deans and chapters can be a law unto themselves you know. Just read Trollope."

● On the subject of seeing stars in Glasgow, David Bowie, who is eschewing the Edinburgh Festival this year, was to be seen in Glasgow earlier this week with his son Joe, at the retrospective exhibition of work by his old friend John Bellamy. Bowie, who has been collecting in his student days last one of his paintings, *Ominous Presence*, for the show. The rock star also graced the Scottish capital with his presence when he dined with Bellamy before flying back to Switzerland on Wednesday.





## MR BUSH'S LAST THROW

Recalling James Baker to the Republican campaign trail is a desperate gamble. With Bill Clinton leading by 26 points in the polls, President Bush has a mountain to climb before November. If anyone can be his sherpa, it is the man who has guided him to the top for the past 20 years, a man of icy nerve and iron will, whose political footing is so sure that he has mastered the vertiginous heights of domestic and foreign policy with barely a slip.

Mr Baker has done it before. He left the Treasury in 1988 to haul Mr Bush out of the 17-point trough in which Michael Dukakis had left him. But this time his task is far harder. Mr Bush is weighed down with a leaden economy, a plummeting of national confidence, a disillusion with his leadership and a raging disaffection by his party's right wing. Most damaging of all, Mr Bush has still not given any convincing reason why he should cling on to the summit of power apart from the fact that it is there and so is he.

There is much that Mr Baker can do to set the campaign to rights. He will almost certainly impose discipline, plug the leaks, stop the backbiting and give direction to the speech-writing. What is scripted can be improved, even if Mr Bush's impromptu remarks are often as incoherent grammatically as they are philosophically. As the campaign descends into the negative name-calling that now marks all American elections, Mr Baker will need also to find a replacement for the much-missed Lee Atwater — a hatchet man not afraid to use any tactic that would win.

To plot a victorious strategy, however, Mr Baker must control factors that are beyond any campaign manager. The first is the economy. The attempt to go for growth, reducing interest rates to historically low levels, is unlikely to produce a significant upturn over the next four months. Crime, poverty, race, education and the environment, areas on which votes are decided, are not amenable to quick fixes or even to symbolic policy blazes. The more Mr Bush proclaims he is the education president, the more voters remember how hollow that claim has become since it was first voiced last time round. And Mr Bush's trump card, his

experience in foreign policy, may be played against him with a vengeance: the agony of Yugoslavia, the defiance of Iraq and the trade deficit with Japan could all be exploited as examples of America's increasing powerlessness to influence the world.

Mr Baker has also arrived too late to mend the damage done by Ross Perot. Though his challenge has fizzled, Mr Perot's candidacy opened up a dangerous and unprecedented gulf between the Republican candidate and the right wing of the party. He persuaded the Reagan coalition of conservatives, increasingly uneasy with what they saw as Mr Bush's betrayal, to make the psychological break and switch allegiance. Now they have yet to be convinced to rejoin the fold.

But first they have to be convinced that Mr Bush shares their ideology. Try as he might, Mr Bush cannot gloss over his U-turn on taxes; his well-read lips during the last campaign were a dangerous hostage to fortune. The party has just adopted a platform that commits it more firmly than ever to a constitutional amendment outlawing abortion, the touchstone of conservative republicanism. Mr Bush's comments on this and on homosexuality suggest that a compassionate moderation will still trip him up in his lunge to the right. He cannot convince the Perot prodigals but dare not abandon them.

Mr Baker is likely, therefore, to redouble attacks on Mr Clinton, exploiting voters' fears of the unknown, dredging up all the old slogans about tax-and-spend liberals and focusing on "character". The problem is that Mr Clinton hardly fits the bogey image. And the Bush camp cannot now tweak, even by innuendo, the adultery question: whatever Mr Bush's outrage over recent questioning, the candidates' pair of Jennifers/Gennifer's cancel each other out.

Moving Mr Baker from the State Department at such a crucial time is a big risk. Mr Baker, for all his loyalty, would not have gone unless he was convinced both that without him Mr Bush would lose, and that he has a good chance of turning things around. If he does, it would confound both the pollsters and historical precedent. But it may be one mountain too high to climb.

## PAYING FOR PURITY

Ian Byatt, director-general of water services, was bathed in gratitude by the water companies yesterday for asking the public the question they have been asking themselves ever since privatisation. Does Britain really need its tap water to be so pure? In the long run, extra purity means extra value added, which means higher prices — probably by as much as 50 per cent by the end of the decade — but also extra profits. In everything less than the long run, however, the pursuit of water purity is likely to prove expensive for everybody.

Price rises each year 5 per cent above inflation, as are needed to make good past underinvestment, are already unpopular with the customer. The rate of disconnections following non-payment of water charges is rising. Mr Byatt is right to consider if the job of Ofwat is to ask what is the right balance between further increases in cost and further improvements in purity. Nobody else is equipped to do so. But even Ofwat is not fully equipped. Ofwat is the regulator of price, not of quality.

The regulation of water services in Britain after privatisation presupposes that Ofwat and the water companies work to standards handed down from on high. Water standards are set by European Community directives, to which Britain has assented, and by Britain's own water regulators, who usually work in a European framework. The EC standards, particularly on eliminating pesticide and nitrate traces, demand purity approaching perfection. The pesticide and nitrate standards reflect scientific caution rather than knowledge.

If this is not satisfactory, nor is Ofwat's alternative: the appeal to the purse rather than to the test tube. Asking people what water quality they are prepared to pay for is nothing but a tease, unless at the same time information is available on the risks to health likely to be associated with the answers.

## PRAY SILENCE FOR JOHN CAGE

One critic, comparing the American composer John Cage with his super-intellectual colleague Milton Babbitt, once wrote that "Cage is the purer of the two, being the more boring". Cage, who died on Wednesday, certainly set out to write "music" that would not be enjoyed in the traditional way: it would be hard not to wince at *Imaginary Landscape 4*, in which 12 radio sets are all continually being retuned to different stations. Some people dismissed him as a charlatan. But along with other anarchists in art, Cage at least challenged an audience's preconceptions and made them question why one composition was art and another was not.

Cage was at the forefront of modernism's rebellion against the lushness, tending to sentimentality, of the late Romantics. If the *reductio ad absurdum* of modernism in art is a white square on a white canvas, then in music it is Cage's 4' 33": a composition in which any number of performers sit in front of their instruments for four minutes and 33 seconds doing nothing. It is in three movements.

Cage thought of the idea in an anechoic chamber in 1951. Expecting to hear total silence within the soundproofed walls, he found instead that he could hear the sounds his body was making. 4' 33" was designed to consist of whatever ambient noise — audience coughs or passing traffic — could be heard in the concert hall at the time. He wanted the audience to listen to sounds for their own sake.

Where is the epidemiological research or clinical study on the effects of inhaling minute amounts of pesticide? It is right, where some risk is involved, that the people subject to the risk should be consulted. But the consultation means little if they are not given the information on which to make a judgment.

For years ministers neglected EC water quality directives. In just the way the British disparaged other European governments for inaction in other areas — treating binding EC obligations as if they were nothing more than voluntary. There was also British insular ignorance behind such attitudes: "everybody knew" that on the Continent it was necessary to boil the water, and "everybody knew" that British tap water was the safest in the world. So until European countries had caught up with Britain, European standards did not need to be taken too seriously. It did not matter if they were set too high if nobody was going to pay them any attention.

Having been threatened with EC legal action over sea water contamination, however, it has now become British policy to obey all directives — leading for instance to a vast programme for the improvement of bathing water purity. Having disregarded EC regulations on bathing and tap water quality in the past, these are now being enforced at significant additional cost to water consumers.

By next spring, Ofwat has told the water companies, they are to report back with their individual "market plans", which are supposed to be based on the preferences of their customers over the trade-off between price and quality. On those market plans, while leaving room for continuing uncertainties over new EC standards, Ofwat will base future pricing structures for the water industry. But until it can properly assess the risks, the public cannot know what is best. Ofwat is asking a loaded question, to get the answer the industry wants.

It is easy, often right, to ridicule some of Cage's work. His piece designed to be played *pizzicato* on eight cacti was doubtless in itself a joke, the musical equivalent of Dada in painting. Schoenberg told Cage, when he taught him composition, that his pupil had no feeling for harmony. So it is tempting to conclude that a man who composes music by throwing dice, on the ground that randomness is as good as order, is running away from the discipline needed to conform to music's conventional harmonic structure.

There was certainly a kind of slightly juvenile machismo involved in modernism's challenge to conventional art forms. Artists competed with each other to be the more outrageous. When Kazimir Malevich painted the first white on white in 1919, followed later in the century by Ben Nicholson, Picasso, Yoko Ono and Robert Rymann, it must have been designed as much as anything to enrage and shock. When Cage himself said, "If my work is accepted, I must move on to the point where it isn't," he revealed how determined he was to scale the ladder of the *avant garde* so fast that however hard his audience tried, it would never quite be able to keep up.

But sometimes an emperor needs to wear no clothes so that the rest of the world can recognise what clothes really are. If Cage's work is not art, at least it dared people to define what was, instead of merely taking it for granted. Just as light needs darkness, so art needs anti-art, and music needs John Cage.

## Thatcher plea on Bosnia conflict

From Baroness Thatcher, OM, FRS

Sir, Dr Conor Cruise O'Brien ("Only fools step in", August 6) makes many shrewd points, which I have no difficulty in accepting, about Western military intervention in Bosnia. But his criticisms are directed almost entirely against the introduction of ground troops — something I have not suggested and which the Bosnians have not asked for.

What I have suggested are air strikes against the Serbian heavy artillery now surrounding Sarajevo and Gorazde and against military targets in Serbia and supply lines: this would go far towards relieving the immediate pressure. At the same time, lifting the present arms embargo on Bosnia would assist the defending forces to resist aggression.

We cannot, as Dr O'Brien points out, be certain of establishing a lasting peace. But we can prevent imminent massacres and, by changing the balance of military advantage, give the Bosnians a better chance to defend themselves. These would not be small gains.

Yours sincerely,  
MARGARET THATCHER,  
House of Lords,  
August 13.

From Brigadier R. H. Fisher

Sir, It seems that, against our better judgment, and due to pressure from outside, our attenuated defence forces are likely to be drawn into the conflict in the Balkans.

Let us be clear about one thing — the role of our forces is to defend the country and its interests. Neither of these is involved in the Balkans. Nor is there a dictator to be toppled, oil interests to be safeguarded or British territory to be regained. Indeed there is a potential threat from Muslim interests, not at present measurable.

Quite apart from the nature of the terrain and the history of successful guerrilla warfare in that area, there is no reason for us to intervene on the ground in other people's quarrels. There are, on the other hand, many reasons for not doing so.

If involvement is to happen, the existence of powerful United States/British air forces as a deterrent, or their actual use, is a much better option to the fighting and thus to relieve suffering at the same time.

Yours faithfully,  
HARRY FISHER,  
Alderson House, Brough Park,  
Richmond, North Yorkshire,  
August 11.

From Dr Roy Turner

Sir, By what right does the prime minister claim that he detects no willingness for military intervention in Bosnia (report, August 4)? This argument was not invoked prior to the military intervention in Kuwait. There are times when you have to say that something is so wrong that you must act, and worry about the consequences after.

Yours faithfully,  
ROY TURNER,  
2 Vine Cottage, Rodmell,  
Nr Lewes, East Sussex,  
August 11.

From Mr Terence Feely

Sir, I am dismayed that the agenda of the politicians and diplomats whom we pay to order our affairs seems increasingly to be set by television reporters whose remit appears to be to get back the bloodiest reports about the most accessible outrages in the quickest way, wherever they may be happening.

Western politicians are focused like minnows in a stream on what is happening in the Balkans and nothing will do but that we must put that right, over and above anything else that is happening in the world. What about Somalia, Mozambique, Ethiopia?

Yours faithfully,  
TERENCE FEELY,  
Garrick Club, Garrick Street, WC2,  
August 12.

## Coventry schooling

From Mr Christopher Farmer

Sir, Mr Michael Fallon ("A work of vision", Times, August 3) offers no evidence in support of his slur that Coventry is home to "the deadly combination of low expectations and low achievement that 12 years of monopoly council schooling provides".

May I point out that the last report of Her Majesty's Inspectors on the city's education service concluded in 1988 that "the overall quality of the authority's provision is good, and occasionally excellent, sustained by a vision of education as a lifelong process". Published independent university research has repeatedly also shown that, when the level of disadvantage faced by too many families in Coventry is taken into account, the city is among the top half dozen local education authorities in the country in terms of pupil achievement.

Yours sincerely,  
CHRISTOPHER FARMER,  
Chief Education Officer,  
Coventry Education Department,  
New Council Offices, Earl Street,  
Coventry, West Midlands,  
August 4.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

## Confidence the key in turning round the economy

From Professor Emeritus Peter Newman

Sir, "Confidence" has become the last refuge of those who do not want to think any more about the implications of current economic policy. The word itself is meaningless unless one specifies what the confidence is about.

In fact the British economy is full of confidence. Men in the street are confident that the prices of real assets will not rise this year; so why buy now? Businesswomen are confident that the ERM's lock on interest rates will keep the real cost of capital high, so why invest now? Financial operators are confident that current monetary policy — the Major-Lamont axis on exchange-rate machismo — will eventually fail under the weight of its own absurdities.

I myself am confident that the ERM is fundamentally flawed because it has not developed rules of the game for handling such massive outside shocks as German unification. The consequent rigidities mean that the EC is approaching economic and monetary union with conversion rates of its national currencies that will be very far from those appropriate for regional full employment. Appalachia, here we come.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER NEWMAN

(Professor Emeritus of Economics,  
Johns Hopkins University,  
Barnhouse, Whiteway Farm,  
Church Knowle,  
Wareham, Dorset,  
August 12.

From Mr David F. Pappin

Sir, How ludicrous is the present argument that the only way to defend sterling is with high interest rates in order to keep within our promised bands within the ERM. Investors do not buy a stock because of the dividend yield alone. They do so mainly because they respect the management for taking the right decisions.

They do not buy a currency because of the overall yield. They are more inclined to do so if the economy is being run in what they believe to be a sensible manner, i.e. there is confidence.

Compared with the Germans we now have a stable government, our money supply is under control and our inflation rate is coming down. We do not have the equivalent of the East German problem. The only thing in which we seem to be failing is doing nothing further to put confidence into the economy.

## Public service quality

From the Under Secretary of State,  
Department of the Environment

Sir, Councillor Rob Irving (letter, August 12) is wrong in suggesting that the government is not committed to high-quality public services. The citizen's charter makes clear our intention that public services should be of a high standard and represent value for money for local taxpayers.

Councillor Irving's comments stem from draft guidance recently issued by my department designed to promote fair competition between the private sector and local authorities' own work forces in tendering for local authority contracts.

This does not prevent local authorities insisting that contractors be certified under British Standard 5750 for quality assurance, although it does suggest that those without certification be given the opportunity to acquire it.

The guidance does, however, advise that, in some areas of work,

We should cut interest rates (within the ERM). If they are temporarily below that of the Germans, why not? Prospective buyers of sterling would, after a possible short period of nervousness when any weakness would be supported by the central banks of the EC, see the prospect at long last of good active economic management being carried out. They would be much more likely to buy on this basis than on a policy of hopeless and Micawber-like inactivity.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID PAPPIN,  
Hatchford Farmhouse,  
Ockham Lane, Hatchford, Surrey,  
August 12.

From Mr Peter Petersen

Sir, It is unfortunate that your economics editor, Anatole Kalesky, still supports the failed economic policies carried out by Messrs Barber and Lawson, to name but two.

You cannot build an economy on debt. It is precisely because a great number of people were conned into believing it was possible to spend money they did not have, that so many repossessions of homes are taking place.

As for the parity of sterling at DM2.95 being too high, I remember when it was at DM11.00. The German economy has, of course, gone from strength to strength, partly as a result of their people having the saving habit and realising that you do not get something for nothing. The same applies to Japan.

There is no quick fix and, fortunately, the present Chancellor of the Exchequer has realised that. May he remain in office for many years, as there is then a chance that the pound may regain respectability abroad and we may have solid prosperity at home, rather than the debt-ridden, candyfloss society we created in the late 1980s.

Yours faithfully,  
P. PETERSEN,  
30 Glynde Crescent,  
Felpham, Bognor Regis,  
West Sussex,  
August 10.

From Mr Tudor Miles

Sir, You are right to point out (letter, August 10) that industrial wage cost increases are no longer the functional factor in UK inflation, and economic policy-makers must recognise this fact. Indeed, if present

possession of BS5750 by contractors may not be common. In such cases to insist on certification may unfairly restrict competition, to the detriment of local taxpayers.

Certification may be costly for private contractors, particularly small businesses, and local authorities should consider carefully whether it is always the best way of ensuring that the quality of service sought can be delivered.

Yours sincerely,  
ROBIN SQUIRE,  
Department of the Environment,  
2 Marsham Street, SW1,  
August 13.

From Mr Howard Williams

Sir, I disagree with Councillor Irving that without BS5750 being mandatory we would be "condemning consumers of local authority services to accept contracts in which price rather than quality is the determining factor". As someone who has helped firms in industry and commerce on the installation of quality

## Snuff and smoking

From Dr Roy Luffingham

Sir, Your report (August 7) that a nasal nicotine spray helped some smokers to give up the habit comes as no surprise to those of your readers who take snuff and know smoking and snuff do not mix.

Before the NHS is lured into spending money on another medical "discovery" we should recall that this traditional British habit, which existed long before the cigarette, is far safer than smoking, does not cause ill health in others and is cheap since the Chancellor dropped excise duty on it.

Its use by smokers would produce a 100 per cent success rate, not the 25 per cent reported for sprays. I have not smoked, or wanted to, since I began taking snuff 30 years ago.

To smokers we say "Come and join us. Eschew the filthy weed!" But not too many of you please, or the government will slap the tax back on.

Yours sincerely,  
RAY L. LUFFINGHAM,  
54 Pearson Park, Hull,  
August 7.

if judged to still have sufficient value, as in the case of Dokaz.

It is surely time for the profession to express a collective viewpoint on the conduct of these "sports" before they agree to participate. Veterinarians are obviously needed and do excellent work in alleviating suffering. They could, however, also be the means by which the challenge that the horse has to face could be determined to be reasonable, and not potentially lethal. Such an action could truly reflect the caring profession for which we are trained.

Yours faithfully,  
BRUCE V. JONES,  
Down Ampney House,  
Down Ampney,  
Cirencester, Gloucestershire,  
August 5.

recession effects on manufacturing industry are allowed to continue the opportunities from holding down wages growth will be lost.

For manufacturers, cost control has to be a dynamic and not a static battle. To compete internationally requires not just cyclical but annual growth of productivity, and this comes mainly through product changes and production method innovations requiring new investment, research and development, and training. In manufacturing industry all three are currently in decline because of recession-syndrome corporate financial constraints.

In many sectors of large scale manufacturing on-going advances in technology and raw materials development ensure that new products either have lower unit production costs or are sufficiently improved in design and quality to merit increased sales and output.

Manufacturers who over-prolong a product life have to accept falling margins or market-share losses to foreign competitors. The latter course has been our long-term experience with the consequent growth of the visible trade deficit.

Until demand and plant utilisation rates rise again investment and research expenditures will not recover. Without new products and production facilities the productivity gains to provide stable exchange rates and low inflation will not be there.

Yours faithfully,  
TUDOR MILES,  
37 Gloucester Circus,  
Greenwich, SE10,  
August 11.

From Mr Richard Langton

Sir, It is not the spend, spend, spend policy urged by your leader which will bring us out of recession, but the much harder one of make, make, make. After a few months of the former, the cry will go up that we are sucking in too many imports and this will weaken the pound and not allow the reduction in interest rates which is the key to success.

As a first step I would suggest your Mr Anatole Kalesky as Governor of the Bank of England.

Yours sincerely,

RICHARD LANGTON,  
42 Chiswick Station,  
Harington Road, W4,  
August 10.

Business letters, page 19

systems to such standards as BS5750, it has been my experience that, properly implemented, company operating costs fall while quality rises.

This is due in part to such things as getting it right first time and better employee motivation. The result is that organisations with good-quality systems in place should be able to tender with lower costs than those without, and provide superior service.

What is of far greater concern to me is the practice, widespread in Britain, of the lowest cost tender getting the contract. Price has no meaning without a measure of quality being purchased. If low cost means low quality, then the final outcome, though cheap, will be of poor quality, and may cost more in the long run.

Yours sincerely,  
HOWARD WILLIAMS,  
AQS (Consultancy and Training),  
1 Manse Street, Aberdeen, Fife,  
August 13.

## Channel tunnel fears

From Sir Alastair Morton,

Chief Executive of Eurotunnel. Sir, On August 8 you gave ten column inches to a story that 40 people out of a sample of 96 had told a "survey" they did not intend to travel through the Channel tunnel, due to open towards the end of 1993.

Clearly summer's "silly season" expands beyond politics. The complexity and issues of the questionnaire did not contact Eurotunnel. Doing so might have enabled them to brief the 96 people on the journey from information which is freely available. It is a journey of which, by definition, neither questioner nor questioned can have any personal experience yet. Their questionnaire did not indicate whether the hypnotherapist would differentiate on fear of flying between those who have made several flights, one flight or none at all.

How about ten column inches on the emotions of regular users of long tunnels elsewhere? They have used them over many years in great safety.

Yours faithfully,  
ALASTAIR MORTON,  
Chief Executive,  
Eurotunnel,  
Victoria Plaza,  
111 Buckingham Palace Road,  
London, SW1,  
August 12.

## Jurors' right to know

From Sergeant J. A. Killen

Sir, Unless the defendant's lawyer tells the jury that the defendant is of previous good character, he is well is not. Prospective jurors should remember this. I am, Sir, your servant.

AMBROSE KILLEN,  
Harpenden Police Station,  
Vaughan Road,  
Harpenden, Hertfordshire,  
August 13.







OBITUARIES

JOHN CAGE

John Cage, American composer, philosopher and writer, died on August 12 aged 79. He was born in Los Angeles on September 5, 1912.

JOHN Cage was far more than a composer. His detractors of whom there are many, would also say he was far less than one. He challenged every assumption about the roles of musicians, composers, listeners, even of the instruments themselves. He wrote a piece consisting literally of nothing — or rather, of whatever extraneous noise happened to be occurring. His brainwave of placing miscellaneous rattling and clattering objects inside a grand piano opened up a world of experimentation for those who chose to follow that path — and was at the same time regarded by many music-lovers as an act of monumental sacrilege and stupidity. He entrusted the format of other compositions entirely to chance.

Such achievements seem stale today, so often and so extremely have they been followed up. But forty years ago Cage was a giant among rebels, shaking up an American musical establishment that was dominated and awed by elderly European émigrés. And not only the musical establishment: few composers have caused as many ripples as Cage with his theory of art as a random event depending on chance — in the philosophies of other avant-garde artists of dance, particularly, and of visual art, rock music and theatre.

Cage was a figure who raised the strongest passions, for and against. "If my work is accepted," he once said, "I must move on to the point where it isn't." He was particularly in the Sixties and Seventies, not one to miss out on a fashionable social or political bandwagon, and the list of commentators who denounced him as a poseur or, worse, a con-man, is formidable.

Nevertheless, he was a powerful enough thinker about music and music's place in our lives, never to be a mere follower after fashion. He was one of the first to state explicitly the credo of mid-20th century avant-garde art: that art is whatever an artist says it is. "I have nothing to say, I am saying it, and that is poetry," he claimed.

Although his reputation was as an avant-gardiste, even an anti-musician, whose influence was felt in both music and the other arts, his early training was fairly conventional. He left college at 18 to go to Europe, where he studied the music, arts and architecture of Paris, Berlin and Madrid over a period of some 18 months. After his return and a time of writing poetry and music, as well as painting, he went to New York, where he studied theory and composition with Adolf Weiss. At the same time he also came under the influence of Henry Cowell at the New School for Social Research.

Cowell's open mind and radical musical thinking, characterised above all by his refusal to admit the self-containment of modern Western musical cultures, affected Cage deeply, but his outlook was further broadened and disciplined by a course of counterpoint he undertook with Arnold Schoenberg in California in 1934.

Thus was formed the artistic mind of a revolutionary whose work was to cause controversy throughout his life, but whose very notoriety bred demand for him as a cult figure to the



extent that in the United States at least, he ultimately became accepted as a member of an artistic establishment populated by such figures as Morton Feldman, David Tudor, Earle Brown, and the artists Robert Motherwell, Jasper Johns and Robert Rauschenberg.

But the road to achieving that status was long. His earliest compositions are striking for their close relationship to Schoenberg's 12-note techniques, with works like *The Sixteen* (1933) and *Composition for Three Voices* (1934) addressing the problem of keeping repetitions of notes as far apart as possible. A step towards a more complex serialism is indicated in *Music for Wind Instruments* and *Metamorphosis*, both of 1938, which each use sections of note rows transposed to pitches determined by the interval structure of the series itself.

This direction, however, was not to be pursued for long. In Los Angeles in the 1930s Cage had become involved with a ballet group for the first time and in 1937 he became composer-accompanist for Bonnie Bird's dance classes in Seattle. In 1938 he formed a percussion orches-

tra in that city, and the following year, now back in California, he gave a concert of percussion music with the composer Lou Harrison.

Perussion instruments, redolent of Far Eastern cultures, remained a focus for his activities, as did ballet. Shortly after travelling again to New York in 1942, this time to settle there, he gave a concert which included three of his own percussion works. This event established his name, and before long he formed what proved to be an enduring and mutually beneficial liaison with Merce Cunningham's innovative dance company. He had already "invented" the prepared piano, the instruments that caused many to raise a doubting eyebrow, in 1938. Since the preparation consisted of inserting nuts, bolts, pieces of paper and similar paraphernalia between the strings and under the dampers, the reaction was unsurprising.

Yet his intentions were less anarchic than they seem. Cage had wanted to turn the piano into a one-man percussion orchestra for a ballet commission, *Bacchanale*, simply for economic reasons. Later, in 1949, that innocent and sensible solution to a practical problem produced the

major cycle *Sonatas and Interludes*, a work of immensely varied colour and great meditative beauty. Meanwhile he had by no means neglected the world of slightly more conventional percussion: *First Construction (in Metal)* (1939) demands a vast array of metallic instruments, including brake drum, water gongs and Japanese temple bells. And he opened up to himself the infinitely flexible sound-world of electronics in *Imaginary Landscape 3* (1942), scored for audio-frequency oscillators, variable-speed turntables for playing recordings of certain frequencies and electric buzzer, an amplified wire coil and an amplified marimba.

Because such works rely on complex or indeterminate pitches, it was natural that Cage should turn to rhythm as an organisational force, a development which gave rise to even more of an oriental flavour, and increasingly an oriental philosophy, in his work. In the late 1940s he began studying Eastern philosophy and then Buddhism. In 1950 he was reading the *I Ching*, the Chinese book of Changes, and thereafter began using elements of chance in his work. *Imaginary Landscape 4*

(1951) demands 24 players on 12 radios, each player tuning according to strict directions. Of course the results are entirely unpredictable. In 1952 came what is still perhaps his most notorious piece, *4mins 33secs*, for any instrument or instruments. The players sit silently. The "piece" is only the ambient noise. Such music inevitably caused derision among many who were unable or unwilling to see what Cage was trying to achieve. Together with the pianist-composer David Tudor he toured Europe in 1954, playing his music and expounding his philosophy to what were usually hostile audiences.

He returned in 1958, travelling to Darmstadt: at Berio's request he went to Milan, where he spent four months working in the radio station's electronic studio. This was shortly after the premiere of his *Concert for Piano and Orchestra* in New York, a work whose deliberately anarchic music — there is no score, only a set of chance derived parts which may in any case be interpreted liberally — caused a hostile reaction comparable, according to many reports, with that which greeted the premiere of *The Rite of Spring* in Paris in 1913.

In the Sixties he became aware that people were actually beginning to listen, that his music had a role to play in forming attitudes in society. His explanation for his art was simple. As he wrote in 1961 in *Silence*, one of several volumes of essays and lectures, his intention was "to affirm this life, not to bring order out of chaos or to suggest improvements in creation, but simply to wake up to the very life we're living, which is so excellent once one gets one's mind and one's desires out of the way, and let it act of its own accord".

Between 1961 and 1969 he produced only a dozen or so projects, among them *Atlas eclipicalis*, whose notes are based on constellation patterns, and the cycle of variations. Then came, in the late Sixties, a series of extravagant electronic pieces, works like *HPSCHD*, *Musicalrocs* and *Variations VI*, but in 1969 *Cheap Imitation* signalled another new path emphasised in 1972 when he orchestrated the piece, providing an absurdly demanding rehearsal schedule and stipulating that any inadequate player should be asked to leave.

No longer was he dealing in anarchy, in refusing to tell someone else exactly what to do; this was a musical manifestation of his dalliance with Maoism. Also important at this time were the writings of the 19th century anarchist Henry Thoreau, which harmonised both with Cage's political thinking and with his intention of "imitating nature in her manner of operation". *Branches and Child of Tree* take that premise to the extent of being composed for vegetable-derived instruments, though amplified through industrial electronics. Further ecological pieces were *Telephones and Birds* (1977), *Lecture on the Weather* (1975) and the beautiful *Litany for the Whales* (1980), for two voices.

In many ways Cage's attitude to art and life can perhaps be best summed up in his reaction to witnessing the Opera House in Frankfurt go up in flames in 1987, with all the props for a new work of his inside. The story is that he turned to the choreographer Merce Cunningham, his life-long friend and collaborator, and said, simply, "Isn't that beautiful?" "Not now, John," came the reply.

APPRECIATIONS

Grand Ayatollah Khoei



IT IS a tragic irony that Ayatollah Abul-Qasim al-Khoei, the Grand Ayatollah (obituary, August 10) died just two days before three members of the UN Security Council (Britain, France and the United States) announced their move for an urgent meeting of the council to discuss the continuing Shiite repression in the south of Iraq by the Saddam Hussein regime.

The Ayatollah's last years of spiritual leadership of 250 million Shiites were clouded by the Iran-Iraq war, culminating in his own arrest and ill-treatment by the Iraqi army at the age of 91 in the wake of the Shia uprising 16 months ago. He survived that shocking brutality to die when now at last there is hope of enforcement of the existing UN resolution 688 which would bring some relief to those of his followers now sheltering in Iraq's marshes or in refugee camps over the border in Iran.

But at least he knew of the large efforts his people were making to tell the West of the "ethnic cleansing" by the Iraqi Sunni minority of the Shiite majority. A constant trickle of up-to-date information was passed through to him, at some risk to the lives of the messengers (it is a capital offence to listen to an overseas radio programme yet he received and watched a video tape of BBC Breakfast Time's clip of my most recent visit to

the Iraq marshes in June). The spiritual strength and wisdom he displayed was supported in a practical way by constant gifts of money by his followers. These enabled him to set up the charitable Al-Khoei Foundation which is active in many countries. In London the foundation has as a trustee his grandson Yousif and runs the Al-Sadiq school for boys and girls of primary school age teaching the UK national curriculum in English. Refugees and the homeless are helped.

The Grand Ayatollah leaves a wonderful legacy of humanitarian work, more than a well of spiritual knowledge that the Shiite Muslims will find hard to replace. I only wish that he had lived to see the physical liberation of those followers whose sufferings he had shared in Iraq.

Emma Nicholson, MP, chairman, all-party parliamentary group for Iraqi Shiites

Alexis Rassiné



REFERRING to the obituary of Alexis Rassiné (August 7) I would like to comment on the description of his style of dancing as "perhaps inclined to rococo extravagance". I would suggest that very few, if any, who worked with him would accept your obituarist's use of the word rococo.

Rassiné's artistry was very much in the mainstream of classical ballet and he was certainly a genuine *dansur noble* in the great tradition of classical dancers, such as Constantine Sergeyev, Nikolai Fadeyev, Erik Bruhn and our own vastly underrated Donald Macleary — with each of whom I had the pleasure of dancing.

A *dansur noble*, a true prince of the ballet, has a pure classical technique, perfect or near perfect line, physical elegance, nobility of manner, and an innate romantic sensi-

bility. Rassiné possessed all these qualities and he displayed them fully at all of his performances, with immaculate taste. At no time would I, or anyone else who knew his qualities at first hand, ever describe his style as rococo.

Nadia Nerina

Pat Meaney

RACING was one of Pat Meaney's many enthusiasms (obituary, July 20). He enjoyed going to the races, but typically he also gave of his time and professional skill through his service as vice-chairman of the Horserace Betting Levy Board.

His advice was always sensible, his energy unbounded and his humour and patience inexhaustible. His many friends in the world of racing and bookmaking will miss him greatly.

Lord Harrington, Senior Steward of the Jockey Club

VISCOUNTESS ROTHERMERE

Viscountess Rothermere, wife of the third Viscount Rothermere, chairman of Daily Mail and General Trust, died of a heart attack at the family villa in the South of France on August 12 aged 63. She was born Patricia Matthews.

AMONG socialites Viscountess Rothermere was one of the great creative spenders of wealth in modern times and her nickname "Bubbles" (though she loathed it as suggesting something superficial in her makeup) felicitously described a character bursting with energy and vivacity and possessed of an unquenchable love of champagne.

As a young woman she had been an actress who attracted notice for a role she had in the film about Douglas Bader, *Reach for the Sky*. On another occasion she was voted one of the ten most beautiful women in London. But it was as a party giver that she stamped her image on the society around her. A veritable female Lucullus in the gastronomic sumptuousness of their organisation, she also had the knack of being principal actor at her own social occasions.

Whatever the temperature of the occasion it was sure to rise steeply when the hostess made her entrance. This capacity owed much to her thespian training and dominating character. But it extended also to her spectacular dress sense. In matters of fashion she had an eclectic style which might throw together a blouse by Yves St Laurent, a stole by Zandra Rhodes and a skirt by Gina Fraini — and then set them off with a shrieking satin hair ribbon.

Ribbons and bows were favourites with her and she

carried them off in situations fraught with peril and envy, in which others would surely have fallen. True, she often provoked charges of vulgarity — "testooned in acres of chiffon...Hog-tied with bows", snarled one newspaper columnist on an appearance on a television chat show. But her charisma as a hostess was independent of physical trimmings and she stole the show at gatherings through sheer force of personality.

Lady Rothermere was born Patricia Evelyn Beverley Matthews, the daughter of a Herefordshire architect. After drama school she began a career as an actress under the name of Beverley Brooks, taking the name of her first husband, Captain Christopher Brooks, an ex-guardsman. It was while she was playing a junior lead in a play at the Edinburgh festival that she was spotted by a talent scout from the Rank Organisation.

A promising film career now beckoned. In addition, in 1955, the photographer Baron voted her one of the ten most beautiful women in London.

Among the films in which she appeared was *Reach for the Sky*, Rank's screen version of Paul Brickhill's book of the same title about the legless wartime fighter ace, Group Captain Douglas Bader. In it Mrs. Brooks played Sally, a girlfriend of Bader who leaves him after he loses his legs in an air crash.

At this point Darryl Zanuck wanted to buy her contract and take her to America. But developments in her personal life intervened. In 1956, too, her marriage to Christopher Brooks had been dissolved after the birth of their daughter. She was by now an object of interest to the Hon Vere



Harrisworth, son of the proprietor of the *Daily Mail*. The choice facing her was to continue her acting career or to marry into the Harrisworth dynasty. In the event, she chose the latter course, marrying the Hon Vere Harrisworth in 1957. "I think I

wasn't confident enough to go that other way", she subsequently recalled. "I loved my husband and I wanted a family". She was to make of her new role a perhaps more spectacular success than she might have been in Hollywood (though Lewis Gilbert

who directed her in *Reach for the Sky* is on record as saying that she could have become a star).

With an energy that seemed undiminished she now created for herself a life of skiing, dancing and walking, entertaining international states-

men, businessmen, show-business personalities and aristocrats, and dividing her time between homes in London, Sussex, California, Jamaica, Paris and New York. "I didn't just marry a man", she once said of her marriage. "As my father-in-law pointed out to me, I married an empire."

When her husband inherited the title on the death of his father in 1978 Mrs Vere Harrisworth (for Pat Harrisworth, as she was more generally known) became Viscountess Rothermere.

Her lavish entertaining and exuberant high spirits had their critics, notably among gossip columnists on newspapers who were rivals to the *Mail*, who liked to portray her as a pneumatically-constructed scatterbrain. But she shrugged off criticism, throwing herself into her business interests and charity work — an aspect of life that complemented the party-going and party-giving. Nevertheless she did once confess that vicious talk hurt her and that she hated denigratory conversations.

The other side of her exuberant generosity was a character of some thoughtfulness. In spite of her vast circle of friendships and acquaintances, which included Princess Margaret and Princess Michael of Kent, and a sense that she was always giddily at the turbulent centre of the social universe, she once confessed of herself: "I'm quite a private person. I don't let too many people get close to me. Maybe that's a mistake — but I don't know."

There is a son, Jonathan, and two daughters, Geraldine and Camilla, of her marriage to Viscount Rothermere, as well as the daughter, Sara-Jane, of her first marriage.

August 14 ON THIS DAY 1946

The "squatters" described here were somewhat different from those of today. They were families desperate for somewhere to live, with the father sometimes a newly "demobbed" serviceman. If the alternative were cramped quarters with in-laws, there might well be something to be said for the comparative privacy of a Nissen hut.

A VILLAGE OF "SQUATTERS" HUTS INTO HOMES

From Our Special Correspondent

AMERSHAM, Aug. 13

VACHE camp, on the hill between here and Chalfont St Giles, is being spoken of as Vache village. People waiting at the bus stop outside the camp discuss their housing problems, with some envy of those who have solved those problems by settling in the camp. All the available huts have now been occupied by families from this district who had been living in overcrowded conditions and had been on the Amersham Council's long waiting list of prospective tenants for houses yet to be built.

There are probably some 70 families settled in the camp; one can only estimate the number because the process of moving in has been somewhat erratic, with an element of indecision among some arrivals. It is further estimated that about 130 children are included in this figure. Those who are here have been allowed to remain undisturbed and seem generally convinced that they will not be evicted.

Most of the huts at the camp closely resemble the pre-fabricated houses that can be seen in many parts of the country. There is a lesser number of the Nissen huts and some of the

administrative buildings are naturally more elaborate than the normal barracks-room type of hut. A system of concrete roads run through the camp but its footpaths are for the most part overgrown, with long grass that has gone to seed.

In each of the occupied huts there was already a heavy desk table and a wardrobe cupboard. This cupboard has also been used by most families as a post for putting up a curtain to separate one corner as a bedroom. The remainder of the hut serves as living room and kitchen, with the large fireplace as kitchen stove, for which dead wood from trees outside is abundantly available.

Already these huts have a very homely appearance inside, even with the small amount of furniture most occupants have been able to bring to them. What is most enjoyed, however, is the new freedom to move around in ample space.

Four camps have now been occupied by "squatters" in the Bristol area. About 60 or 70 people who entered the Ministry of Works White City camp on Monday night, moved their furniture there yesterday. Already there are curtains at the windows of the huts, and milk was delivered yesterday morning. The other camps taken over yesterday were at Badminton Down, Shirehampton, and Speedwell.

Last night Bristol Housing Committee issued a statement accepting no responsibility for the comfort and convenience of the "squatters" and warning them that they were trespassers. A Labour member of the Housing Committee, Alderman W.H. Hennessey, addressed a crowd of "squatters" at the camp later. Ignoring the Housing Committee's statement, he said: "Sit tight, carry on. Take no notice of rumour. The police cannot touch you. They cannot drive you out of your huts unless they are given sanction by the Ministry of Works in London, and I am satisfied that the Minister will not give the police power to enter this estate and turn the people out."



# Double agent and family defect to Britain

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

IN THE grand tradition of the Cold war, the government remained tightlipped yesterday over the defection of a Russian intelligence officer to Britain. Viktor Oshchenko, with his wife and 14-year-old daughter, arrived three weeks ago, allegedly after working as a double agent.

The Russian authorities were more forthcoming about the man they thought had been working for them for years. Yuri Kobaladze, an official at the Russian embassy in Paris where the diplomat had been working until his disappearance on July 24,

said Mr Oshchenko was an employee of Russia's intelligence service.

In Moscow, Inter-Tass news agency, the press bureau of Russia's foreign intelligence (formerly the KGB), said "some elements of the diplomat's activity (prior to his defection) gave rise to suspicion" he might be playing a "double game" by co-operating with intelligence services of an unidentified Western country.

Mr Oshchenko, who was listed as a counsellor at the Paris embassy, a title favoured by intelligence officers from both sides of the former Iron Curtain, was due to end his tour of duty and decided to seek asylum in Britain rather than return to Moscow. He had been serving in Paris since October 1985 and was ranked 15th on the embassy list of diplomatic personnel. The Moscow agency claimed he defected to the West for fear of being exposed.

Assuming he was working for Britain's secret intelligence service, MI6, his defection would have been arranged under the normal escape clause for double agents, under which they can cease operating when they feel it is unsafe or unwise to continue.

Mr Oshchenko is the first defection to Britain since the formal end of the Cold war. The last double agent to settle here was Oleg Gordievski, who was forced to leave Moscow in secret in the back of a van. It is not known how Mr Oshchenko travelled to Britain. However, the Home Office confirmed that he and his family were in the country and that they were seeking leave to prolong his stay here. The Foreign Office said the Russian embassy in London had paid a call at the end of last week to ask his whereabouts, but declined to give any further details.

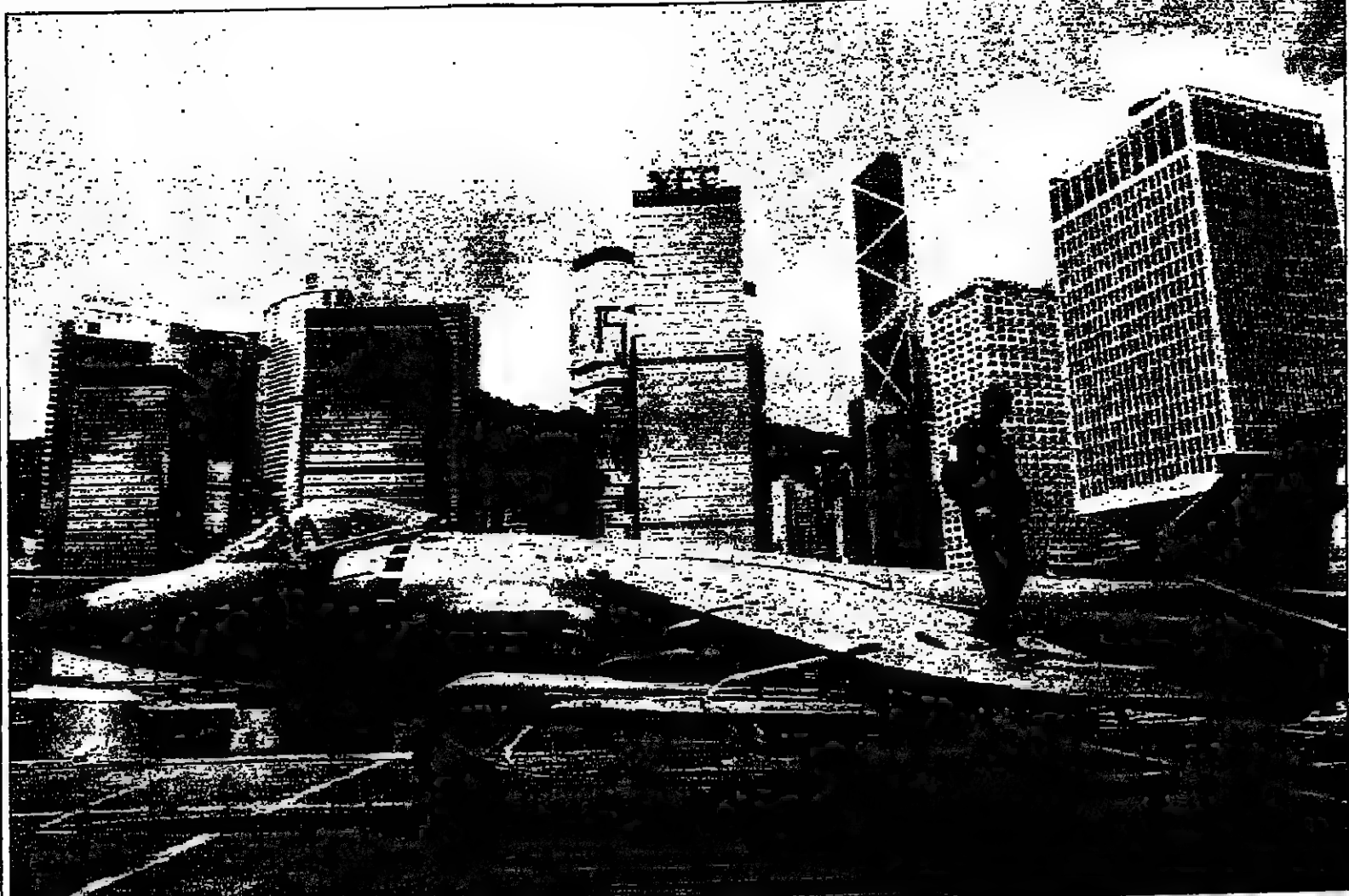
Mr Kobaladze in Paris confirmed that measures had been taken through diplomatic channels to organise a meeting between the Russian consul in Britain and Mr Oshchenko, but the diplomat-turned-defector had rejected the proposal.

## Baker to run Bush campaign

Continued from page 1  
Republican national committee. Mr Baker, who was known to be very reluctant to join the campaign team, acknowledged that it was "one of the most difficult decisions of my life". However, as one official put it, he realised he had to step in "or we may all be out of jobs".

Mr Baker managed Gerald Ford's 1976 re-election campaign, taking him from a 33-point deficit to the brink of victory against Jimmy Carter. As White House chief of staff, he managed Ronald Reagan's easy re-election in 1984, and then Mr Bush's election in 1988. On that occasion he converted a 17-point deficit into an eight-point victory. Known for his shrewdness, iron discipline and acute political antennae, Mr Baker will take charge of the campaign team. Mr Bush, implicitly acknowledging criticism that voters do not know what he stands for, emphasised that he would also help him to develop "an integrated second-term programme of domestic, economic and foreign policies".

Republican fight, page 8  
Miracle man, page 11  
Leading article, page 11  
L&T section, page 5



Wing walker: a crewman inspecting a Sea Harrier fighter on the carrier *Invincible*, which is berthed in Hong Kong. The ship is leading a six-strong fleet in a Far Eastern tour of duty demonstrating the Royal Navy's ability to operate outside of Nato territory

## Jobless hits 5-year high, but economy shows signs of life

Continued from page 1  
Every addition to the dole queues cost the taxpayer £9,000 a year in benefits, according to Frank Dobson, the Labour employment spokesman. He called on the government to boost training resources, offer immediate tax concessions to companies who invested in new plant, and to release council house receipts so that they could be invested in building projects that would provide housing for the homeless.

Despite the attacks on their policies triggered by the rise in unemployment, ministers and officials were generally relieved by yesterday's package of economic statistics. The increase in seasonally adjusted unemployment was 29,000, considerably less than many analysts had expected after the erratically low figure of only 10,000 published last month. Gillian Shephard, the employment secretary, said she took comfort from the fact that average rate of increase over the past three months was the smallest of any quarter for

two years. She also welcomed a fall in the rate of annual pay rises to a 25-year low of 6 per cent.

The monthly rise of 0.2 per cent in manufacturing output and 0.1 per cent in industrial production were both well above City expectations. Taking the figures for the last few months together, both manufacturing and employment appeared to be on a gently improving trend.

Although the improvements reported yesterday fell well short of a full-scale economic recovery, they seemed to confirm earlier indications that the turning point in the economic cycle had occurred around the time of the general election, in the late winter or early spring.

In the second quarter as a whole, manufacturing output was 0.4 per cent up on the previous three months. This marked the second consecutive quarterly increase in manufacturing, suggesting that the downturn in this part of the economy was probably over.

which includes energy output and water supply, as well as manufacturing, was still falling in the second quarter, by 0.3 per cent compared with the previous two months. However, this decline was due entirely to a loss of oil output from North Sea oil rigs that shut down early for summer maintenance.

The gains in manufacturing in the latest quarter suggested that the figures for Gross Domestic Product due to be published next Wednesday, could show the first advance in two years. The broadest measure of economic activity, after seven consecutive quarterly falls, would officially signal the end of the recession, at least as defined by government statisticians. Ministers hope this statistical signal may help to revive confidence among consumers, businessmen, and investors in sterling, even if unemployment continues to rise for the time being.

Five-year high, page 15  
Business Comment, page 19

## Purest water 'not worth the cost'

Continued from page 1

lity improvements which many people would like to see done. "Average bills would reach £185 a year by 1995, £250 by 2000 and between £245 and £245 by 2005, although some customers would experience increases substantially higher than the average. He was concerned, he said, that some customers could not afford their bills.

In setting the new price regime next year, he was "mindful" to cut the rate of return the companies could achieve on their capital from 12.5 to 6 per cent, and was looking to see cost savings and greater efficiency, but even these changes would not fully offset the growing cost to consumers of the industry's planned investment programme to comply with EC quality standards for drinking water, bathing water and sewage treatment.

This now stands at £30 billion, and Mr Byatt said that further investment on the horizon, such as that for replacing lead pipes, would total "tens of billions".

The degree of stringency of

some of the standards was something that needed to be questioned, he said, instancing the pesticide standard for drinking water (set at 0.1 microgrammes per litre — one part in ten billion). This represented the limit of scientific detectability, and water engineers thought it was unachievable in practice. Mr Byatt said, yet meeting this standard alone would involve capital expenditure of about £1 billion, putting about £2 a year on an average water bill.

Last night Friends of the Earth called Mr Byatt's analysis blinkered. "He has failed to debate the key question of who should pay for the clean-up of contaminated drinking water," Liana Stupples, the group's water campaigner, said. The water companies welcomed the opening of the public debate on cost and quality. "Costs must be assessed and customers' views taken into account before decisions are taken to adopt even higher standards and increase water prices further."

Leading article, page 11

## Laker looks forward to Gatwick comeback

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

TEN years after Skytrain disappeared both from the airline business and the public consciousness, Laker Airways is back.

Now 70 years old and a permanent resident of the Bahamas, Sir Freddie Laker yesterday returned to the London hotel where bankers told him in 1982 that they could no longer support his airline and announced that he was aiming to be back at Gatwick offering cut-price transatlantic flights by the end of next year.

Some of the old sharpness may have gone — it took minutes rather than seconds for him to work out that it would cost \$750 to fly to the Bahamas for a week's holiday and \$1000 for two — but there was no mistaking the old Laker charisma.

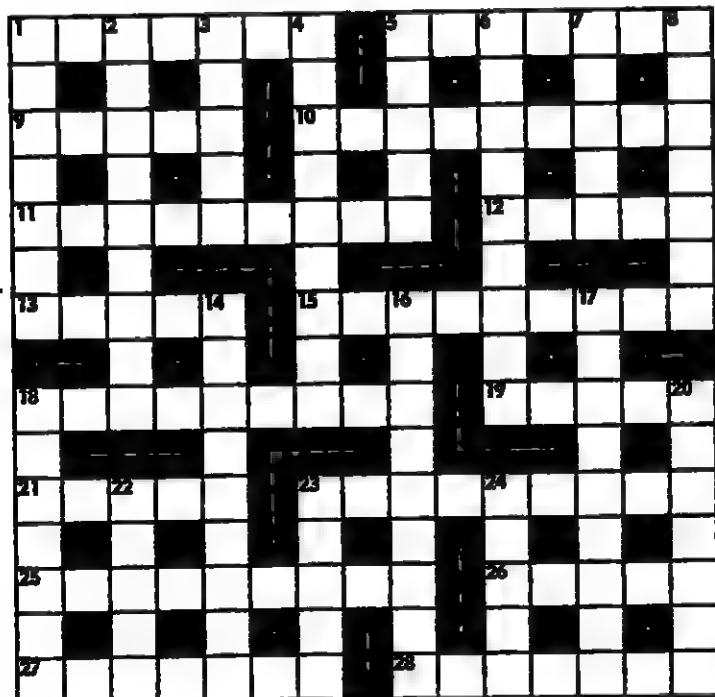
Since May this year, he has been operating 34 flights a week carrying holidaymakers between Nassau and a variety of American cities on chartered Boeing 727 jets. Now he believes the time has come to spread his wings into Europe. "There is a very real possibility that by the end of next year I could be back in Gatwick," he said. "I might even have some old 'grandfather' slots left which they have forgotten about."

Why should a pensioner who seems to have everything go back into an industry that he believes treated him badly and which is for most of his competitors little more than a licence to lose money?

The fact that it makes commercial sense — there have been no scheduled flights to the Bahamas from London since British Airways pulled out three years ago — is obviously an advantage. But Sir Freddie does not need the money, having picked up about £5 million from the anti-trust settlement he won against British Airways and other airlines after the collapse of Laker Airways.

One answer to the conundrum could be seen at yesterday's relaunch, when his 14-year-old son "Little Freddie" played a major part. Sir Freddie had always wanted to hand on an airline to his son Kevin, who died in a road accident in 1965. He may now be aiming to do the same for his younger offspring. There is also an element of "tweaking the nose" of British Airways.

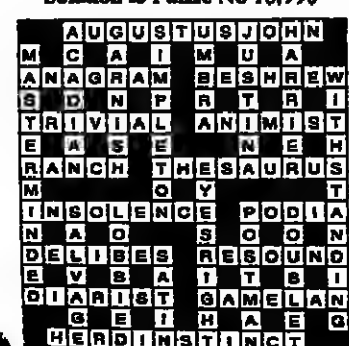
## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,997



### ACROSS

- Extremely pretty pickle a school head got into before retirement (7).
- Sportsman allowed to feature in articles (7).
- Language once spoken in Rhine Palatinate (5).
- View a barn after conversion? What a brilliant idea! (9).
- Three-handed murderer? (9).
- Gradually destroy poem after hesitation (5).
- Island in the river belonging to those people (5).
- Supplidy ask them if this is a temporary expedient (9).
- Limb joined to a plant, or originally a mammal (9).
- Lofy new honour a politician accepted (5).
- Hood, possibly, used in endlessly dressing up (5).
- Place of entertainment near the beat he abandoned (5-4).

### Solution to Puzzle No 18,996



- Remarkable things only women put in an undidly heap (9).
- Spiritual nourishment an old kingdom rejected (5).
- Seasonal digest for listeners (7).
- Priest dividing fruit is a countryman (7).

### DOWN

- European jazz enthusiast raises a terrible shriek (7).
- Strong wind put working setter in predicament (3,6).
- Champ knocks one out in a German city (5).
- Drunk born in a slum, awfully low in intelligence (9).
- Adjust like an expert, having change of heart (5).
- Unwelcome dependants waiting on the telephone? (7-2).
- Muse for a long time on turnover of books (5).
- Oriental garment worn by king in the Himalayas (7).
- Coat of a ruminant in Berkshire, say (9).
- We are told not to blow the whistle in the plant (9).
- Bias in claim to be man holding academic degree (9).
- Befitting a Rugby player of massive dimensions (7).
- Half seem to support the squeeze (7).
- The fish is a ray? About right (5).
- Poor English journalist in the Manhattan area (5).
- Satisfied, going up river at this speed (5).

Concise Crossword  
Life & Times section, page 9

## AA ROADWATCH

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which definitions are correct?

By Philip Howard

- RAID**  
a. A Buddhist model  
b. A Zoroastrian holy book  
c. A native-born Israeli
- MURKIN**  
a. Dark red  
b. A type of North Sea herring  
c. A sterile beetle
- QUEEN**  
a. An Irish girl  
b. A spider grinder  
c. To moan and complain
- ERS**  
a. The vanished Ur Celtic  
b. Elmer Fudd  
c. French Art Deco

Answers on page 12

## AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

|                             |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| London & SE                 | 731 |
| M-ways/roads M4-M1          | 732 |
| M-ways/roads M1-Carlton T   | 733 |
| M-ways/roads Dartford T-M25 | 734 |
| M-ways/roads M25-M4         | 735 |
| M25 London Orbital only     | 736 |
| National                    | 737 |
| National motorways          | 738 |
| West Country                | 739 |
| Wales                       | 740 |
| Midlands                    | 741 |
| North-west England          | 742 |
| North-east England          | 743 |
| Scotland                    | 744 |
| Northern Ireland            | 745 |

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## WEATHER

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which definitions are correct?

By Philip Howard

- RAID**  
a. A Buddhist model  
b. A Zoroastrian holy book  
c. A native-born Israeli
- MURKIN**  
a. Dark red  
b. A type of North Sea herring  
c. A sterile beetle
- QUEEN**  
a. An Irish girl  
b. A spider grinder  
c. To moan and complain
- ERS**  
a. The vanished Ur Celtic  
b. Elmer Fudd  
c. French Art Deco

Answers on page 12

## AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

|                             |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| London & SE                 | 731 |
| M-ways/roads M4-M1          | 732 |
| M-ways/roads M1-Carlton T   | 733 |
| M-ways/roads Dartford T-M25 | 734 |
| M-ways/roads M25-M4         | 735 |
| M25 London Orbital only     | 736 |
| National                    | 737 |
| National motorways          | 738 |
| West Country                | 739 |
| Wales                       | 740 |
| Midlands                    | 741 |
| North-west England          | 742 |
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Saturday: Highest day temp: Conings





# BUSINESS TIMES

FRIDAY AUGUST 14 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

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SPORT  
23-26

Earnings growth rate slows to 25-year low

## Unemployment jumps to five-year high

By ROSS TIEMAN AND ANATOLE KALETSKY

THE number of unemployed rose to a five-year high in July, but the rate of job losses slowed. At the same time the employment department revealed that the rate of earnings growth had fallen to 4 per cent, the lowest level for 25 years.

The number of jobless people claiming benefit rose by 29,100 during July, after seasonal adjustments, to 2,753,967. The unadjusted increase was 96,749, reflecting the usual seasonal surge.

Gillian Shepherd, the employment secretary, said the rate of increase in unemployment during the latest three months was the lowest for nearly two years.

According to her department's statistics, the average monthly rise during the quarter to July 9 was 19,400, compared with 29,400 in the previous quarter and 40,800 in the six months to January.

However, Mrs Shepherd added that unemployment "is likely to be one of the last economic indicators to turn round". She said she was launching a drive to encourage employers to report more vacancies to job centres in an effort to help those claiming benefit find work.

Fear of unemployment and a fall in inflation, now under 3.9 per cent, appear to have contributed to a drop in average earnings. For both the economy as a whole and manufacturing, employment department statistics have revised down average earnings reported for May by 1/4 per cent to 6 1/4 per cent. They have also calculated a provisional figure of 6 per cent for the rise during the year to June. However, earnings growth in the service sector remained a quarter point higher during June, they said.

Overtime worked fell by 1.31 million hours during June, to 9.95 million hours. Unit wage costs in the quarter to June were up 1.7 per cent year on year, after a 4.2 per cent rise in productivity.

Meanwhile, sterling fell below DM2.82, for the first time since ERM entry, despite better than expected figures on industrial production, as investors around the world bid up the mark and continued to speculate about a possible breakdown of the ERM.

Britain's industrial production rose 0.1 per cent and manufacturing output increased 0.2 per cent in July, confounding expectations of small declines in both statistics. The quarterly figures showed a 0.4 per cent improvement in manufacturing in the second quarter, but a 0.3 per cent decline in industrial production due mainly to falls in oil output from rigs closed for maintenance.

Despite the fact that the pound was right at the bottom of the ERM grid and was approaching the "divergence limits" which are supposed to trigger intervention under the system's rules, British officials appeared unperturbed about the pressure on sterling. They said it was mainly the by-product of a sharp fall in the dollar, which fell well below DM1.44, the level previously defended by the Fed and European central banks.

The dollar came under attack after publication of figures showing that inflation and consumer demand were both weaker than expected. The consumer price index was up only 0.1 per cent in July, and America's annual inflation rate fell to 3.1 per cent. Retail sales in July were 0.5 per cent higher than a month earlier. But the June figure was revised down from an increase of 0.5 per cent to a fall of 1.0 per cent, and this helped to trigger the dollar's decline.

The City earned £16.9 billion from invisible exports in 1991, compared with a revised £14.9 billion in 1990, according to figures released by British Invisibles. The biggest net contributor was banking, with net receipts of £7.8 billion, up 7.5 per cent. Insurance receipts grew 24 per cent to £3.3 billion despite underwriting losses by the companies and Lloyd's Securities dealer earned £2 billion, up 32 per cent and Baltic Exchange shipbroking activities brought in £804 million, almost double the level in the previous two years.

## Panel criticises PR firm and bank

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

THE Panel on Takeovers and Mergers has criticised Burson-Marsteller, one of the City's best-known public relations firms, and Lazard Brothers, the merchant bank, over apparent leaks to the market during the bid defence they conducted on behalf of Dowry International earlier this year.

Dowry succumbed to a hostile bid from T1 Group, the diversified engineer, on June 10. Just before the bid closed for the last time, there appeared in the market and the press reports of profit estimates for the current financial year to end-March for Dowry.

At the time, the panel, after speaking to Lazard, forced a public statement from Dowry dissociating the company from the speculation and making it clear it had no proper foundation. A further investigation by the panel found that in a number of conversations between the public relations firm and the press and some investment analysts, "material new information" had been passed on.

The Panel says financial advisers such as Lazard are responsible for guiding clients and public relations advisers on any information released during the offer.

Lazard was unable to control information released by Burson-Marsteller and is therefore criticised. The public relations company is found responsible for serious breaches of the code and is criticised accordingly.

Since the bid closed, T1 has claimed that Dowry's profits have fallen 66.7 million short of the level formally claimed in its bid defence.

## Halifax cuts rates on its savings accounts

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

THE Halifax Building Society steadied nerves yesterday when it chose to reduce savers' rates rather than increase mortgage rates. The largest mortgage lender cuts savers' rates by an average of 0.35 of a percentage point from today.

The Nationwide, Alliance & Leicester and Bradford & Bingley have already cut savers' rates to improve operating margins. The Skipton, the 14th-largest society, has increased its mortgage rate to 11.25 per cent this week.

Abbey National, second-largest mortgage lender, will not cut savers' rates or raise mortgage rates. John Baylis, managing director, said: "We are comfortable where we are. We believe National Savings is still very competitive. We have seen a lot of money go to National Savings and a lot going out of accounts in debt repayment."

The Halifax has 14 million savers and 1.8 million borrowers. Its margins have been strained since March when mortgage rates fell without a base rate cut. Mike Whitehouse, operations director, said: "The Halifax has sought to keep mortgage rates down but in common with other societies continuing pressures on operating margins mean that adjustments to investors' interest rates are required to ensure continued financial strength and security for all our customers."

The smallest cuts are on £50,000 in the 90-day account, whose rate is reduced 0.1 per cent, and on the Instant Xtra account, whose rate falls 0.25 per cent on the same amount.

## Vodafone hits back first in 'foney' war

By RODNEY HOBSON

THE "foney" war has broken out in earnest. Strong by Cellnet's plans to lure domestic customers as well as businesses, Vodafone, the rival mobile telephone network, has produced plans to cut costs for less frequent users.

To show that it means business, Vodafone will launch its revolutionary new service to coincide with the Soviet October revolution, one month before Cellnet's attack. Chris Gent, Vodafone managing director, said: "Like all good military commanders, we will get our retaliation in first."

Vodafone's idea is to have two tariffs. Domestic customers will pay lower rental charges but higher call rates than businessmen. This is good news for those who use their mobile telephones only for incoming calls but Mr Gent admits that those who make on average more than one call a day will be better staying with

the existing service. The new consumer service will not allow international calls or other expensive services.

Cellnet, jointly owned by BT and Securicor, said two months ago that it would cut the bill for domestic customers to half the current cost for businesses by slashing the price of telephones, reducing the monthly subscription charges and introducing cheaper off-peak rates.

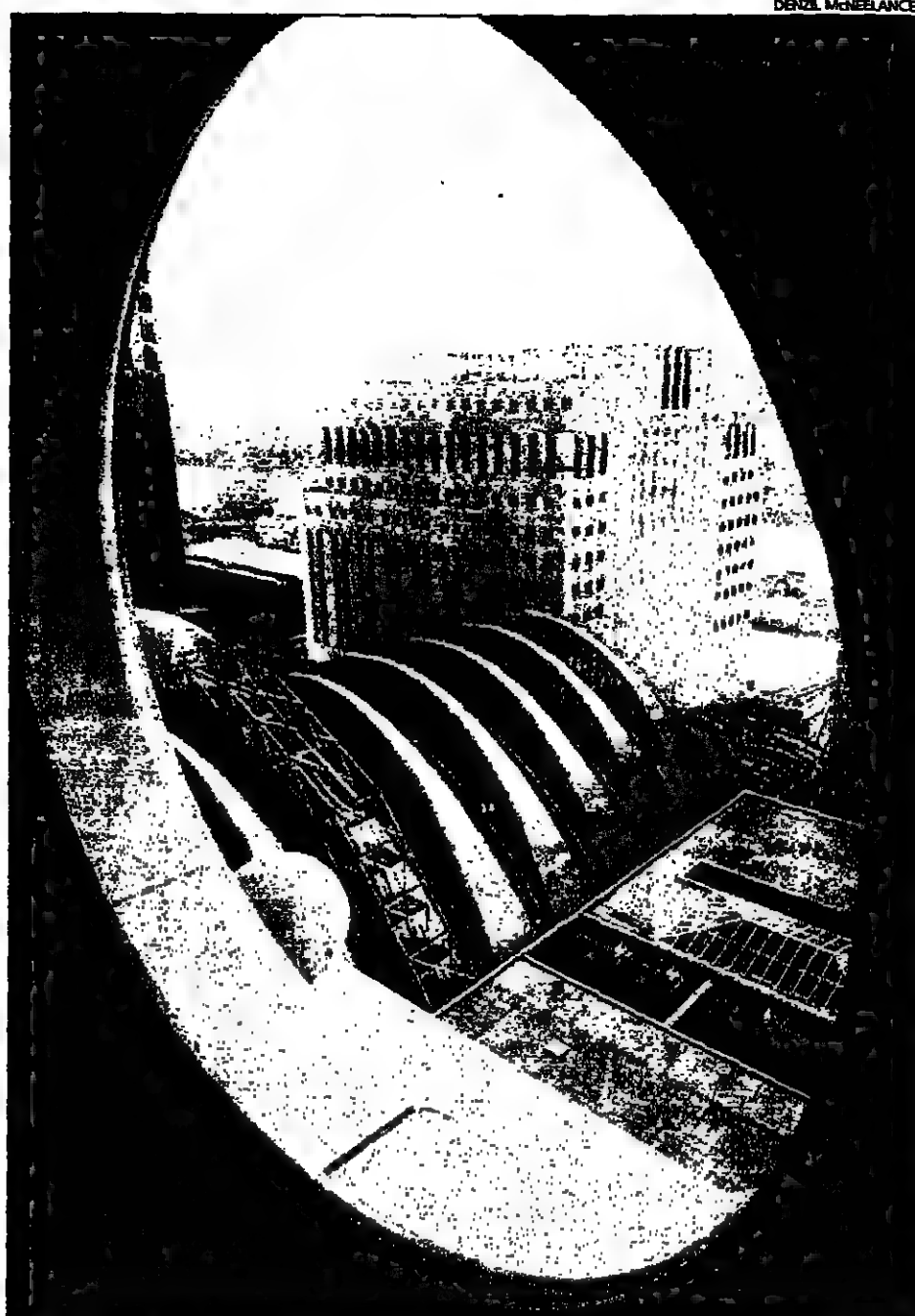
Vodafone, which has 56 per cent of the UK market, will market mobile telephones for £249. Subscribers to the new tariff will pay a connection charge of £30 and a monthly line rental of £15, both a reduction of 40 per cent on the current standard business tariff.

Call charges will be 54p a minute within the M25 and 46p a minute outside during the weekday peak hours of 7am to 8pm. Weekends will cost 27p in London and 23p outside and off-peak charges will be 15p nationwide.

Mr Gent says belligerently: "We have rattled our competitor who has no detailed plans and is 18 months behind us." Vodafone claims that 35-40 per cent of current users would be better off on the new tariff. The company calculates that perhaps 20 per cent, 150,000 subscribers, will change, costing £3 million in lost profits in the current financial year to March and £12 million next year.

Launch promotional charges will be £2 million, taking the cost in the current year to an estimated £5 million. However, the shares marched up 5p to 317p.

Recruits should offset the costs after about 18 months. Vodafone says that to have 100,000 customers switch services would cost £8 million a year. Gaining 100,000 subscribers would bring in £18 million a year in extra profits. Vodafone says it can cope with the expected influx. The company has 30 per cent spare capacity at peak times and 80 per cent spare off-peak.



Wharf with a view: bankers consider the rescue bid by US investors

## US rescue for Canary Wharf 'worth examining closely'

By ANGELA MACKAY

CANARY Wharf's bankers yesterday agreed to consider a proposal from a group of American investors prepared to spend up to £450 million to bail out the project. At the same time, Hanson announced it had abandoned plans to purchase the scheme.

The American syndicate, organised by Paul Reichmann, founder of Olympia & York, which owns Canary Wharf, is led by Larry Tisch, head of CBS Television, and Lewis Ranieri of Hyperion Capital Management, an investment company. They are joined by Primavera, the insurance group that owns Strath Barney, an investment bank, led by its chairman, Sanford Weill, the Wall Street financier, and at least three other unnamed parties.

Ernst & Young, Canary Wharf's administrator, put the proposal to the bank's steering committee at a meeting yesterday just after Hanson made public its decision to withdraw. The administrators insist there are still several serious bidders on the table, but none of these is believed to be prepared to inject as much cash as the Americans.

Derek Bonham, Hanson's chief executive, said: "We took a prolonged look at all the facts in connection with preserving this major London property development, but we have decided that the necessary financial obligations do not meet our objectives for Hanson's shareholders. We are grateful for all the co-operation we have received."

The administrators said they regretted Hanson's decision but "fully understand their position. The joint administrators are, however, continuing to negotiate with a number of other interested parties concerning the future of Canary Wharf and remain confident of a successful outcome".

Hanson, advised by John Ritblat of Conrad Ritblat, the property agent, declared its interest in June. It signed a confidentiality agreement and spent months crunching numbers to assess the project.

The American proposal has been greeted cautiously by some of Canary Wharf's 11 bankers. However, a majority decided the offer was worth examining more closely, particularly since the syndicate was offering cash, not paper. Mr Tisch and his partners have attached several conditions to their proposal, including a commitment from the government to transfer at least 2,000 civil servants to Canary Wharf and assurances that the existing tenants will honour their leases. The proposal involves an injection of capital to finish the initial stages of the scheme and a contribution to the Jubilee Line extension.

The government is not expected to decide on the transfer of department of environment staff until October.

Mr Tisch was reported by Forbes magazine to be worth \$1.1 billion net. He has the reputation as an entrepreneur with a talent for turning round troubled businesses. He is credited with saving CBS, America's third-largest television network, which he has led for the past six years. He and his brother, Preston Robert, own a quarter of the Loews Corporation, the fourth-largest American tobacco company, which includes the 12th-largest American insurance firm and a chain of hotels.

He tried to put together a \$1 billion bid for the troubled Macy's retail group.

The project's steering committee, which represents banks owed £550 million, meets every two weeks. The next formal step in the administration will be several creditors' meetings scheduled for the end of the month.

## Profit fall for Hanson

HANSON yesterday reported a fall in third-quarter pre-tax profits from £379 million to £274 million, for a nine-month figure of £762 million (£967 million) to June 30.

Profits would have been £41 million lower had there been no change in the dollar exchange rate, admitted Derek Bonham, chief executive. He said that after adjusting for this and the 1991 exceptional profit on disposals, the underlying result was a fall of about 5 per cent — "a very commendable picture".

Hanson is paying a quarterly dividend of 2.75p a share.

Tempus, page 18

## New-look Royal cuts its losses and payout

By JONATHAN PEVNN  
INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

ROYAL Insurance, the third composite insurance group to report interim figures this week, has announced an £18 million reduction in its six month losses but has cut its interim dividend because of capital restraints.

The company also announced a reorganisation of its internal structure, which has had the effect of increasing its headline solvency margin from a dangerously low 27 per cent to 40 per cent.

The pre-tax loss in the first six months of the year was reduced from £97 million to £79 million, with improved results in the general insurance operations in the UK, American and international operations. Richard Gamble, the chief executive, said Royal, which expanded rapidly during the 1980s, was "concentrating on writing business for profit, not market share".

The results were overshadowed once again by domestic mortgage indemnity (DMI) losses, totalling £100 million in the first half of the year. Royal is expecting a further £150 million of DMI losses to flow through over the next 18 months. It has already established reserves of £325 million to pay claims about which it has been notified by mortgage lenders.

The interim dividend was cut from 11.25p to 2p. Richard Gamble, the chief executive, said the size of the dividend was "based on the belief that while the underlying trend in the business is showing signs of improvement, we are still conscious of the need to conserve capital".

Worldwide profits from the life operations fell from £34 million to £15 million, with the reduction accounted for by lower new business volumes in America and a provision in Canada for a deterioration in the investment portfolio.

Under the new structure, the general insurance operations and the life operations will be held by two separate holding companies. Previously, the two sides of the business had been owned by a single holding company but the life operations were given no credit in calculating the headline solvency margin, while accounting for a large proportion of group borrowings. This had the effect of depressing the company's margin.

Mr Gamble said the restructuring had not been driven by concern from the DTI about the sharp fall in the solvency margin under the previous method of calculation. "This new structure will enable us to present the accounts of the Royal Group with greater clarity and... will enable shareholders and commentators to focus more clearly on the individual businesses and make more balanced judgments about performance and individual corporate solvency." He added: "We have not bolstered solvency, we have just identified the solvency that was always there." Analysts described the change as "cosmetic" and said it made no difference to the strategic problems facing the group.

Tempus, page 18

### TODAY IN BUSINESS NET PROFIT



England's three quoted football clubs kick off in their 1992-3 season campaigns tomorrow, but will they score financially?  
Page 19

### COST SAVINGS

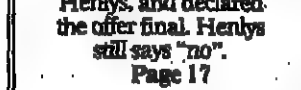
Glynwed International has relied on cutting costs, rather than stronger markets, in lifting interim pre-tax profits to £15.4 million  
Tempus, page 18

### FINAL DRIVE



T Cowie has sweetened its hostile takeover bid for Henrys, and declared the offer final. Henrys still says "no".  
Page 17

### COWIES



T Cowie has sweetened its hostile takeover bid for Henrys, and declared the offer final. Henrys still says "no".  
Page 17

### TOMORROW



Murray Stuart has reached a business pinnacle, and become honoured in his own land as head of Scottish Power. William Kay meets the man

### DEBT LEVEL

As A level results are assessed, Weekend Money looks at student debt, its causes and how long it may take graduates to return to the black

### THE POUND

US dollar 1.9320 (+0.0048)  
German mark 2.8199 (-0.0029)  
Exchange Index 92.1 (+0.1)  
Bank of England official close (4pm)

### STOCK MARKETS

FT 30 share 1722.2 (+6.9)  
FT-SE 100 2318.0 (+14.9)  
New York Dow Jones 3316.51 (-4.32)  
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 14768.17 (-5.62)

### INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base: 10%  
3-month Interbank: 10%  
3-month Treasury Bills: 3.09-3.07%  
30-year bonds: 108-108 1/2

### CURRENCY

London: New York  
£: \$1.9320  
DM: £1.9320  
Sfr: £1.9320  
FF: £1.9320  
Yen: £1.9320  
ECU: £1.9320  
Dollar: £1.9320

### GOLD

London: 333.25  
New York: 333.25  
Gold: 333.25  
Silver: 333.25  
Platinum: 333.25

### NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Sep): \$19.90/bbl (\$19.95)  
Brent (Oct): \$19.90/bbl (\$19.95)  
Brent (Nov): \$19.90/bbl (\$19.95)

### RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 138.3 June (1987=100)  
Denotes midday trading price

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**INVITATION TO BID 8880/92**

**ELECTROMECHANICAL EQUIPMENT INTENDED FOR CANOAS I AND CANOAS II HYDROELECTRIC POWER PLANTS**

This International Invitation to Bid 8880/92 is intended for the supply of electromechanical equipment for Canoas I and Canoas II Hydroelectric Power Plants, including tests and assembly supervision services.

The participation in this Bidding shall be made through the formation of consortia, being required of the companies that make up each consortium a total paid in capital stock equivalent to Cr\$ 16,000,000.00 (sixteen billion cruzeiros).

The rules containing bidding conditions are available to a duly authorized person at the cost of Cr\$ 1,000,000.00 (one million cruzeiros) at the following address: Divisão de Tecnologia e Licitação de Material, Rua Bela Cintra, 881-A andar - Cerqueira Cesar - São Paulo - SP - Brasil, from 9 to 11 a.m. and from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Opening of bids shall be held on September 14, 1992, at 2 p.m., in the above mentioned address, ground floor, Bidding Room.

Administrative Directorate  
Companhia Aberta  
C.G.C. 60.933.603/0001-78

**CESP**  
Companhia Energética de São Paulo



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## US lawyers given time to finish MCC plan

FROM REUTERS IN NEW YORK

A REORGANISATION plan for Maxwell Communication Corporation, the media empire under bankruptcy court administration, is likely to be completed by October 13, a lawyer for the company's administrators said.

Judge Tina Brozman of the United States Bankruptcy Court granted the administrators a 60-day extension, which will run until October 13, of the sole right to file a reorganisation plan for the company.

The media empire of the late Robert Maxwell is being handled by both American and British courts, which has complicated the untangling of its affairs. John Gellene, a lawyer for Milbank Tweed Hadley and McCloy, which represents the administrators of Maxwell Communication Corporation, told the court that the administrators' reorganisation proposal was "quite advanced".

He said talks on the proposal would begin soon in both America and Britain, and that it would meet the needs of both jurisdictions.

"This will be the last extension to be requested from you before a filing of the plan," Mr Gellene told the judge. He said details of the plan were being circulated among administrators, creditors and others involved.

Judge Brozman said she was pleased with the pace of the reorganisation plan. But she criticised fees charged by Milbank Tweed Hadley and McCloy and others working on it. She wanted details of a \$677,000 bill submitted by Milbank for the three months ending June 30, and added that she would review specifics before signing an order authorising payments.

Mr Gellene said 85 per cent of the bill reflected lawyers' hours consumed by the case. The bill also included other costs such as tax advice and clerical work.

## Cowie increases offer for Henlys to £30.3 million

BY JON ASHWORTH

T. COWIE, the North East motor distributor, has increased its bid for Henlys Group, the motor trader and coach manufacturer, to £30.3 million.

This, the final offer, consists of seven new Cowie shares for every ten in Henlys, valuing each Henlys share at 80p. There is a partial cash alternative of one new Cowie share plus 40p in cash for every two Henlys shares, valuing each Henlys share at 77p.

Cowie has forecast a final dividend of not less than 4.25p, giving a total for the year to end-December of not less than 6.25p. This represents an increase of 28 per cent over 1991. Henlys shareholders would be entitled to receive the full dividend.

By August 11, Cowie had received acceptances from holders of 0.7 per cent of Henlys shares.

Gordon Hodgson, chief executive of Cowie, has further criticised Henlys' management and performance. He said a successful acquisition would create the UK's fourth-largest motor dealership and shareholders would benefit from economies of scale and increased operating efficiencies.

Robert Wood, Henlys' chief executive, rejected the revised offer as inadequate, saying that prospects for the coming year were excellent. He said: "Cowie's offer is ill-conceived, it demonstrates a woeful lack of understanding of Henlys' businesses and it significantly undervalues Henlys' assets and prospects."

Henlys expects to narrow pre-tax losses to £900,000 against the £6.8 million lost in 1991. The interim dividend for the six months to June 30 has been pegged at 1p and the company has promised to maintain the final at 2p.

Plaxton, Henlys' coach and bus manufacturing subsidiary, has won orders worth £26 million within the past three weeks. Losses at Plaxton,



Another rebuff: Sir Tom Cowie's revised bid has been rejected as "inadequate"

which has been hit by factory closures and redundancies, have been the focus of Cowie's attack. Earlier this month, the division's 700 employees accepted a two-year pay freeze and gave up the rights to private health insurance.

Plaxton then won new orders, crowned by the signing

of a trading and technical agreement with Volvo, Europe's second-largest bus maker. Volvo agreed to distribute coaches made by Plaxton in mainland Europe and other world markets for at least five years. The deal is worth up to £75 million in sales. Plaxton went on to sign its biggest ever

bus order with Badgerline, the private bus company. The order to supply 396 buses for delivery in 1993 and 1994 is worth £9 million.

Henlys shares rose from 69p to 75p yesterday. Cowie ended the day unchanged at 15p. The offer closes on September 1.

## Names set to fight on against Council

BY JONATHAN PEVY

THE group of dissident Lloyd's names that last month requisitioned a meeting and ballot of names to test confidence in the Council of Lloyd's have said they will call another extraordinary meeting if Lloyd's refuses to abide by the results of the votes.

The group, known as the EGM Initiative, and led by Claude Gurney, is also setting up a committee to draft a new Lloyd's bill.

The EGM Initiative has been critical of the conduct of the ballot, the results of which are not expected to be made public until early September. The resolutions are non-binding, but John Rew, the new chairman of the Society of Names, said that one objective of a second extraordinary meeting would be to give resolutions passed by a majority of the membership the status of binding bye-laws.

At a press conference yesterday, Tom Benyon, the outgoing chairman of the Society of Names, described David Colebridge as "a lame duck chairman" and called on him to stand down by October 1. He also urged the rest of the Council to resign.

Mr Benyon added that David Rowland, who is almost certain to be Mr Colebridge's successor, was unsuitable for the role because he is a working name. "The problem is seen as one of the insiders exploiting the outside names. While that continues to manifest itself we cannot tolerate another insider chairman for names," he said.

Mr Benyon added that he knew of a number of figures of national standing who would be prepared to take on the mantle of chairman of Lloyd's. So far, only Mr Gurney has declared his hand as an alternative candidate to Mr Rowland. Neither are currently members of the Council of Lloyd's, to which they must be elected by names before being eligible to become chairman.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Japan's trade surplus surges above \$9bn

JAPAN'S trade surplus grew even larger in July, surging to \$9.24 billion, without being adjusted for seasonal factors, from \$6.6 billion in July last year, the finance ministry said on Thursday.

Economists had predicted that the customs cleared trade surplus would rise to about that level. Total exports rose to \$29.47 billion, up almost 11 per cent from July last year, while imports rose a mere 1.1 per cent to \$20.23 billion. Japan's trade surplus with America, meanwhile, also widened somewhat to an unadjusted \$3.63 billion surplus in July, from \$3.01 billion a year earlier.

### Shell back in Romania

SHELL has signed a \$40 million oil concession contract with Romania in a deal to rejoin the country's oil exploration business. Under the deal with Rompetrol SA, the Romanian oil exploration and development company, Shell committed the sum for five-year exploration rights on a block north of the Transylvania region. Shell, returning to Romania after quitting shortly after the second world war, hopes to find hydrocarbon deposits in the 6,150 square km area, located on a plateau between the Somes and Mures river valleys. Drilling will start in 1994.

### Media boost for WPP

WPP, the advertising and marketing group, reported early signs of recovery and a 5 per cent rise in revenues in the media advertising market in the first half. It saw no signs of recovery in public relations or non-media advertising. WPP confirmed estimates given at the time of its refinancing that pre-tax profits would be almost wiped out by the costs of the exercise, falling to £1.82 million from £16 million after a £12.7 million exceptional item. Total revenues rose 3 per cent to £601 million. Net new business worth over £475 million was won (£440 million). There is again no dividend.

### Fimbra suspension

THE Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association (Fimbra) has suspended the investment business of Oldham Mortgage Consultants of "Squirrels", Lower Station Road, Newick, near Lewes, East Sussex. The firm has been ordered to cease conducting and soliciting investment business regulated by Fimbra. Meanwhile, Fimbra has lifted the suspension of Emerson Financial Services of Maybush Road, Hornchurch, Essex.

### British Gas rating cut

MOODY'S Investor Service has cut British Gas's senior debt rating to AAZ from AAA, affecting about £3.6 billion of debt. The move also applies to subsidiary debt guaranteed by Gas but not its prime commercial paper rating. The downgrading reflects an expectation that Gas's debt protection measures will decline over the intermediate term as management develops and executes a strategy of growth through investment in exploration and production. Moody's said.

## Watchdog urges more cost cutting by water groups

WATER companies will be expected to put greater pressures on costs than they have so far under proposals from Ian Byatt, the director general of water services.

In his paper *The Costs of Quality*, Mr Byatt says that, in the private sector, the companies should be able to achieve future cuts in operating costs of 5 per cent a year, against 3 per cent earlier and that they could make similar cuts in the unit cost of capital works in their investment programmes. Mr Byatt also made it clear that cost pressure would be greatest on the least efficient companies.

The Water Services Association, which represents the ten privatised water and sewerage companies, said that after hefty one-off efficiency improvements since privatisation, such targets "appear unrealistic". Robert Miller-Bakewell, water analyst at County NatWest, said the targets were particularly tough because only about a third of what was classified as operating costs were fully in control of management. Other costs such as depreciation, power and charges to finance regulators, depended on the level of capital spending or decisions by others.

Water shares nonetheless reacted with relief to the document, partly because Mr Byatt's efforts to persuade quality regulators to keep future capital spending within bounds would put less pressure on the companies' balance sheets.

Shares in Yorkshire Water, one of the market leaders, gained 20p to 438p, while North West Water, which could be most affected by higher capital spending options, also rose 20p to 424p.

There were lesser gains elsewhere.

Bill Dale of Warburg Securities said: "Water stocks have been the best performing sector this year. But they were down for the past week on uncertainty and nervousness ahead of Ofwat's statement." But Mr Miller-Bakewell said the share price reaction had been strange.

Mr Byatt estimated that efficiency savings, extra revenue from metering and small allowances in the cost of investment capital could reduce consumers' average annual water bills by between £20 and £30, equivalent to

between 11 and 16 per cent, between the start of new price limits in 1995 and the end of the century.

Of this, savings of about £7 could be achieved by imposing lower assumptions of capital costs after the 1994 review. Mr Byatt wants the assumed cost of debt to be between 3 and 5 per cent net of inflation instead of the 5.75 per cent assumed until now, but will not make up his mind until 1994. He also wants companies to borrow more to finance spending, reducing the initial cost to consumers.

Comment, page 19



Water pressure: Ian Byatt, director general of services

## KLM cuts fares to America

BY WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines has joined other European airlines in cutting transatlantic air fares, but the decision by the Dutch air carrier is certain to take a further toll on already plummeting profits.

The company yesterday reported a 72 per cent fall in net profits to Dfl 38.4 million (£12 million) for the first quarter of the year, but refused to make a profit forecast for the rest of the year.

"Partly because of heavy competition mainly on the North Atlantic route, and the uncertain development of results in aviation participations, we do not deem it responsible to give a prognosis of the final result of the current book year," KLM said in a statement, highlighting the company's cautious stance.

The results were worse than feared by financial markets, and the KLM share price fell more than 10 per cent to Dfl 26.20 by late morning.

One of the main reasons behind the fall in profits is the performance of Northwest, the American airline in which KLM has 49 per cent, and other partially-owned foreign airlines. The total loss on foreign participation amounted to Dfl 60.9 million.

Financing costs went up from Dfl 54.5 million to Dfl 81.3 million.

The cut in airfares of up to 50 per cent, while good for passengers, will do nothing to alleviate the company's immediate problems. Under the new fare structure, valid from October, tourist class fares from the America to Europe will range from \$475 to \$850. Other airlines, including Air France, earlier this week, have also cut their transatlantic fares.

chemicals rose from £1.8m to £2.1m.

Previous year included a \$6.2m non-recurring item. Company says ferry travel continues to increase despite the recession.

Interim results. Trading generally continues to be affected by the recession.

Interim results. Loss compare with \$28.2m in the first half of last year.

Reduction in Thomson Travel's seasonal operating loss more than offset by lower operating profits from Thomson Newspapers.

JOHNSON GROUP (Int)  
Pre-tax: £7.9m (£8.2m)  
EPS: 24.95p (25.42p)  
Div: 7p (7p)

TULLOW OIL (Int)  
Pre-tax: £22m (£24,000)  
EPS: 1.42p (0.04p)  
Div: Nil (nil)

FOREIGN & COLONIAL  
Pre-tax: £12.2m (£11.8m)  
EPS: 2.31p (2.19p)  
Div: 1.12p (1.07p)

AYRSHIRE METAL (Int)  
Pre-tax: £15,000 (£41,000)  
EPS: 0.8p (0.4p)  
Div: Nil (nil)

BLADEN INDUSTRIES  
Pre-tax: £2m (£3.4m)

Company finds results satisfactory in the present conditions. Recession depresses dry-cleaning sales in US and Britain.

Figures in Irish currency. Company to begin extensive drilling in Britain, Senegal, Pakistan and Syria.

Interim results. Money test withdrawn from equity and fixed-interest markets in Britain, America and Europe.

Interim results. Profit improvement arises from cuts in working capital and lower interest charges.

Interim results. Packaging profits were unchanged and

EPS: 7.3p (7.3p)  
Div: 4.8p (4.5p)

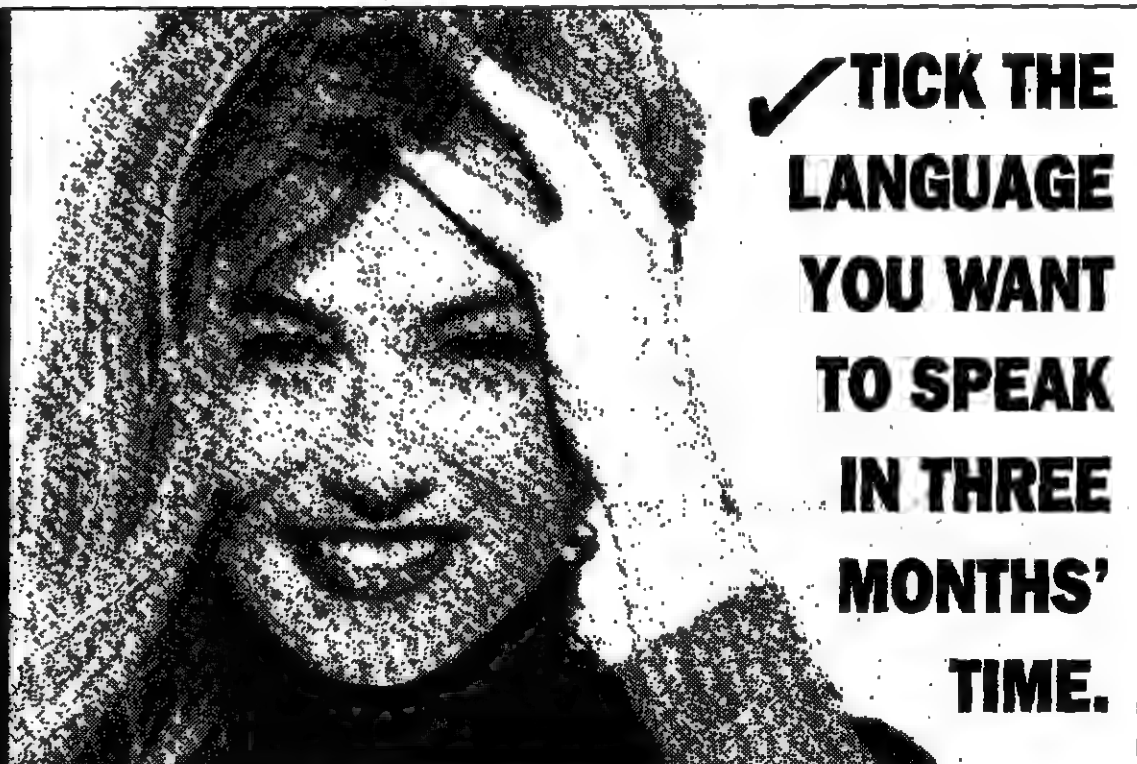
SEA CONTAINERS (Int)  
After-tax: \$9.8m (\$9.5m)  
EPS: \$0.15 (\$0.42)  
Div: 19.25c (17.5c)

ASSOCIATED FISHERIES  
Pre-tax: £1.3m (£0.7m)  
EPS: 5.63p (2.90p)  
Div: 1p (1p)

JEFFERSON SMURFIT  
Pre-tax: \$36.2m (N/A)  
EPS: (N/A) (N/A)  
Div: (N/A) (N/A)

THOMSON CORP (Int)  
After-tax: \$15m (unch)  
EPS: 3c (unchanged)  
Div: —

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## TEMPUS

## Royal watchers are not amused

ANALYSTS were at best cynical and at worst slightly insulted by the restructuring at Royal Insurance, which at a stroke allowed it to boost its solvency margin from 27 to 40 per cent at the half-year stage.

Royal had to do something, as, under the old method, the ratio was slipping dangerously close to DTL solvency limits and some brokers were beginning to show the first signs of twitchiness about placing business with the company. The restructuring, however clever in accounting terms, does nothing to change the business fundamentals.

Whatever the figure for the solvency margin, capital and reserves still fell 24 per cent to £1.3 billion in the 12 months to June. Admittedly, much of this was due to foreign exchange losses and falls in investment markets. However, only when Royal starts to make significant profits again can it start the process of nursing the balance sheet back to its former self.

In the meantime, for all the persuasive efforts of Richard Gamble, chief executive, the domestic mortgage indemnity losses simply cannot be stripped out and continue to cast a shadow over the recovery in most other accounts.

A further £100 million of DMI losses were included in the interim loss of £79 million and the company is now estimating its exposure over the next 18 months at about £150 million. This means Royal will continue to lag at least a year behind its stronger competitors as the upswing strengthens. This year the loss will again exceed £100 million and the dividend will be cut to perhaps 5p, for a yield of 4 per



On the upward path: Gareth Davies, chairman of Glynwed, unveiled interim pre-tax profits up £5m yesterday

cent. The only real plus for the shares is that at yesterday's price of 165p, they stand at a 40 per cent discount to net assets. The limited downside probably justifies holding on to them.

## Hanson

PROBABLY the best news Hanson shareholders heard yesterday was the board's decision to pull out of a deal over Canary Wharf. Having said that, there could have been little disappointment with third-quarter profits that indicated an underlying contraction of only 5 per cent, given the conditions in which the group had to work.

All the same this is new

territory for Hanson, which until this year had experienced nothing but growth, and a certain self-consciousness may be detected in its inability to resist the temptation to pat itself on the back. The third quarter brought the disposal of the ICI stake and the Ever Ready sale. The profits have been taken below the line, but the total cash inflow has had a marked effect on the balance sheet, where debt was reduced from £1.6 billion to £1.1 billion.

The Beazer businesses are said to be settling in, although Hanson is experiencing the same economic pressures in its building materials operations as everyone else. Fortunately, it is able to offset them with success in tobacco, one

of the few remaining recession-proof industries. The group has higher hopes for its operations in America, where it is seeing some recovery, than in Britain, where it is not. Nothing analysts saw in these figures, however, tempted them to vary their forecasts significantly, and £1.14 billion is still the popular pre-tax guess for the year. The safe 7.4 per cent prospective dividend yield, at 195p, remains the best argument for holding.

## Glynwed

GARETH Davies and his team at Glynwed International must be among the unsung heroes of the recession. Faced

with exposure to some of the worst-hit sectors of the economy, including new housing and the automotive industry, they have done all that was needed to match the output of their disparate businesses to lower demand.

Having seen an abrupt dip from peak profits in 1989 of £93 million, Glynwed is on the upward path again. Half-year pre-tax profits of £15.4 million to June 27 were £5 million ahead of last time, on sales 9 per cent lower because of disposals and lower metal prices, this last factor trimming profits by £3 million.

These disposals helped cut interest payments during the first half by £3.5 million to £6.1 million. Mr Davies says he will not pay an uncovered dividend two years in a row, but the £20 million of annual cost savings achieved suggests Glynwed should have no difficulty reaching the £36 million pre-tax needed this year to secure the payment.

Andy Chambers at Nomura Research Institute is at the top of the range with a £40.5 million forecast. This suggests a forward multiple of 15 while a maintained dividend gives a yield of 7.9 per cent at yesterday's share price, 13p higher at 196p. Probably too early yet to buy.

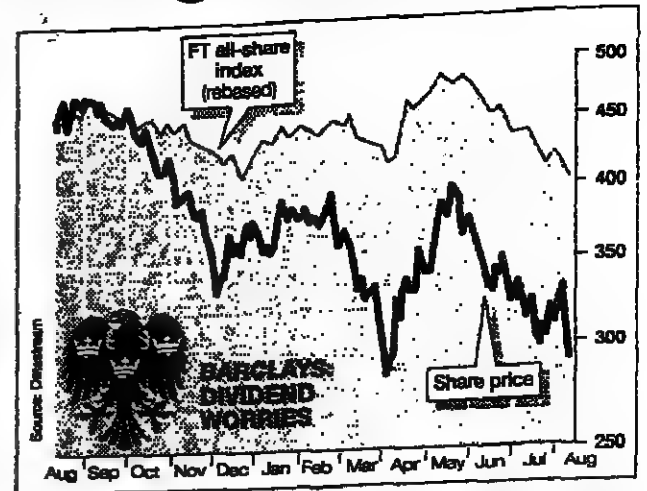
## Water shares pull equities out of losing sequence

WATER stocks, which account for a sizable slice of the equity sector, helped the market stage a technical recovery, which ended a record seven-day run of declines. They were in demand after an assessment from Ofwat, the industry watchdog, was found to contain no nasties for the companies but said that future water bills could be nearly 50 per cent higher by the year 2000 because of the cost of meeting new quality standards.

The prospect of real price increases post-1995, in turn suggesting continued profit and dividend growth, and of customers standing much of the cost of higher quality standards, provided widespread gains. Anglian rose 13p to 406p, North West 20p to 424p, Severn Trent 12p to 392p, Southern 10p to 383p, South West 19p to 403p, Thames 19p to 413p, Welsh 14p to 429p and Yorkshire 20p to 438p.

Elsewhere, an absence of stocks in the latest batch of economic data brought welcome relief, although the market continues to be very nervous and it was again a futures-led technical rally that led to a rise in the index. Some dealers feel the emergence of a few buyers could combine with a shortage of stock, as traders keep tight books, to squeeze share prices sharply higher. But others fear that any bounce could attract sellers, so many traders are resisting temptation to chase the market higher. The FT-SE 100 index rose 14.9 to 2,318. The narrower FT index of 30 shares climbed 6.9 to 1,722.2. Volume reached only 441.3 million shares.

The bears hugged Sears



American support helped Saatchi and Saatchi, the advertising and marketing group that has been making presentations in America, gain another 7½p to 157½p, giving a two-day rise of 21½p. Food manufacturers enjoyed a bounce with buying interest lifting Tate and Lyle 9p to 310p, Booker 12p to 391p, Northern Foods 8p to 257p, Unigate 8p to 284p and United Biscuits 5p to 301p. Selling pressure trimmed Cadbury 13p to 442p. Argill, where BZW, the broker, is said to be organising a trip for fund managers today, firmed 5p to 328p.

American buying and a reiterated buy stance from Société Générale Strauss Turnbull helped Medeva jump 10p to 162p. Hanson firmed 2p to 195p on third quarter results and news that it has ended discussions to rescue the Canary Wharf project. American buying and revised bid speculation helped Lanes gain 10½p to 147p on heavy volume of 10 million shares.

at 418p and GRE 10p to 129p on volume of 7.9 million shares. Royal Insurance was unchanged at 165p after unveiling reduced interim losses and a slashed dividend, while Sedgwick and Willis Corroon lost 17p to 141p and 9p to 179p respectively before figures next week. Continued

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# Soccer chiefs bounce back to give club losses the red card

As the new season starts, Michael Tate finds goals are still the net profits that count in the financially challenging world of football

Company chairmen can be hard to locate at any time, but tend to be particularly scarce on a Saturday afternoon. However, it should be possible to pinpoint, with the accuracy of a Liner goal, the whereabouts of the boardroom captains of Manchester United, Tottenham Hotspur and Millwall, England's three quoted football clubs, this Saturday.

English football kicks off its league season at the weekend, offering all three something to cheer again. They could do with some light relief. United's Professor Sir Roland Smith will be as keen as any to put last season behind him. It began with him losing his job at British Aerospace, and ended with his team throwing away the first division title in the last few games.

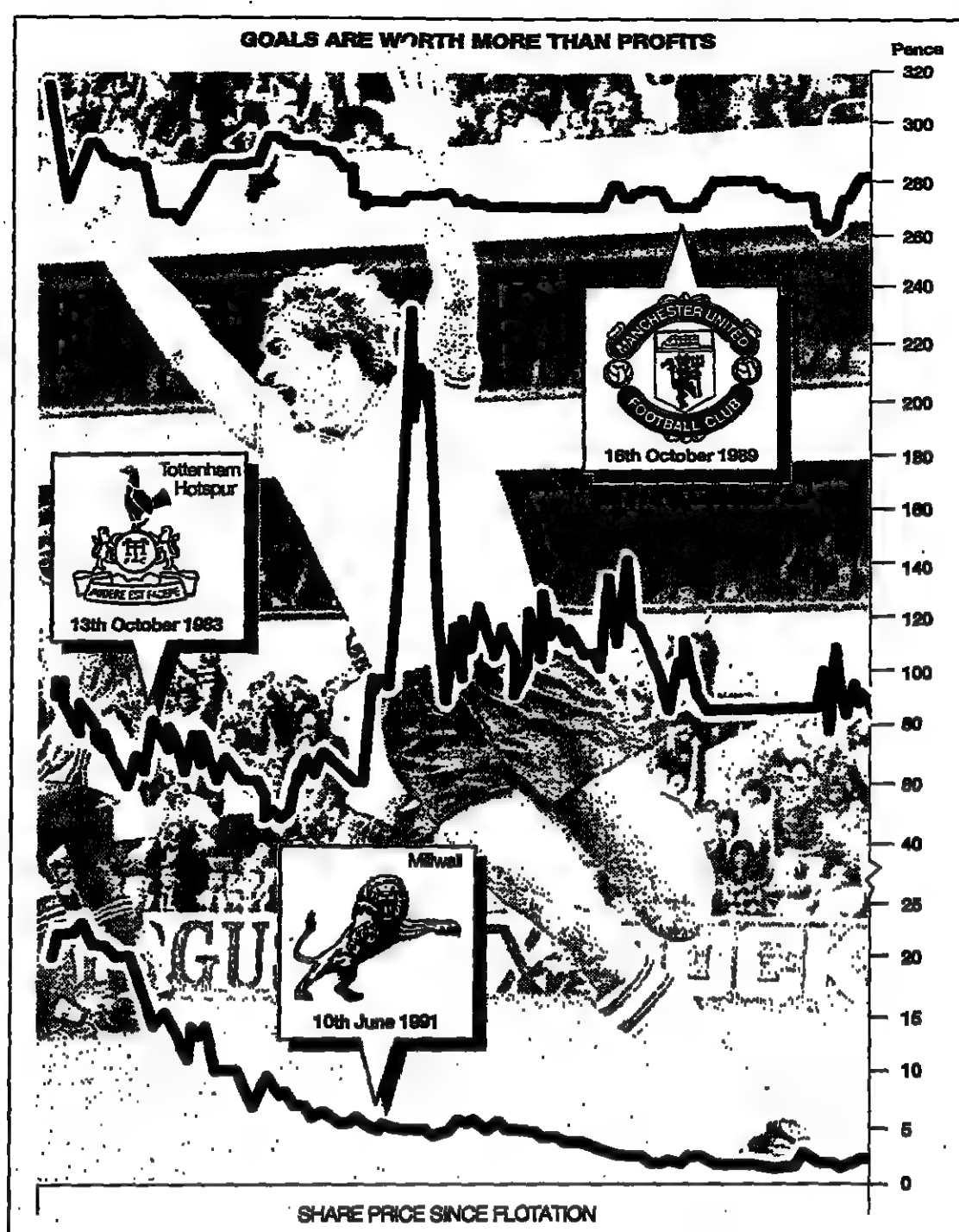
Alan Sugar, whose millions saved Spurs from probable extinction a year ago, will welcome the chance to bask in a little adulation again after the thrashing his Amstrad group is taking in the market. Sugar, whose attendances at football matches before last season could be counted on the White Hart Lane clock's short hand, has become a "fan", and craves a little glory, it is said.

As a result, Nat Solomon is likely to be dropped. Solomon has led the Tottenham boardroom team for two years, having been brought in to referee the disputes between the other directors, who were in danger of kicking each other, and the club, out of the game — and to attempt to convince the Stock Exchange that the game was being played within the rules. But insiders say it will not be long before he pays the penalty for recommending a takeover by Robert Maxwell.

At Millwall, Reg Burr has a different headache. No parrot can ever have been as sick as the Millwall share price. Less than three years ago, Burr encouraged fans and others to buy shares in Millwall Holdings at 20p apiece. Today they languish at 2.5p, a worse performance over the period than that of the team, which, once floated, promptly sank into the second division.

Not that Millwall has a monopoly on poor share price performance. Manchester United, offered at 85p, have headed south ever since, to stand today at 28 1/2p. And Tottenham shares, which came to the market in 1983 at 100p, are changing hands at 89p, having returned to the lists after more than a year of suspension and near-oblivion last New Year's Eve.

Do any of them offer investors the prospect of ever getting their money back? There is no greater optimist than the football club chairman. As the matches start this weekend, football chairmen, like all the other fans, believe the season could end in



Over the moon, but underperforming: clubs may have won on the pitch, but they lost on the stock market

glory. What is different today is that some say it can also end in profit. And one or two of them believe it.

Take Manchester United. Martin Edwards, who made way for Roland Smith when the decision to float was taken, but as chief executive remains primarily responsible for making the club tick as a business, reported pre-tax profits of £5.38 million for the year to July 1991, and is expected to improve on that when he delivers the 1992 result in October.

Even Alan Sugar, who inherited debts that peaked at about £15 million in 1990, and is privately said to have been appalled at the lack of financial controls he found at White Hart Lane, has been able to report a return to profitability, and following the sale of Paul Gascoigne to Lazio for a net £5.5 million, a return to a net cash position. Millwall ran up a

deficit of £2.67 million in its last reporting period, but put the blame largely on an off-the-ball tackle from its Tavern Leisure pub chain, since sold. Attempts to diversify into non-football activities have almost invariably led to own goals, and shared a large part of the blame for the financial crisis at Spurs.

In the past, diversification was typically seen, not only as a means of raising cash to finance the football team, but also of levelling out lumpy profit and loss accounts where gate receipts, programme sales and other income were swamped by the club's transfer activity. One of the earliest decisions taken by the newly-quoted Tottenham Hotspur in the 1980s was to transfer their playing staff's registrations to the balance sheet. At the time

this was greeted with some scepticism by most observers who regarded the move as a piece of fancy financial footwork aimed at bamboozling the critics.

The doubts persisted right up until the Manchester United float, whose advisers made capital of the fact that the company would not be playing the Tottenham way.

Last month, however, Touche Ross, the leading accountancy firm, came to Spurs' support. In his conclusion to a survey of football club accounts, which covered all 46 clubs in the top two English divisions, Touche's Gerry Boon said: "There is something commercially illogical about spending money on valuable players... and writing these off to the profit and loss account when incurred." Mr Boon discovered that only two clubs, Spurs and Port-

smouth, put their players on the balance sheet.

The Tottenham method is to capitalise the cost of a new player as an intangible asset, and to amortise the difference between this cost and estimated residual value over the life of the player's contract. The residual value is based on a formula that takes into account the player's age when his contract is due to expire, and his earnings. Amortisation is then charged to the profit and loss account annually.

In Mr Boon's view, such treatment has "significant appeal and commercial logic." Not only does it reduce large, unpredictable swings in the profit and loss account, but it gives a more realistic picture of the company's value, increasingly important as the big clubs seek finance from sceptical bank managers to fund their commitments to ground improvement under the Taylor Report.

Incredibly, given its recent financial history, Tottenham is second in the balance sheet league table behind a dotation-inflated Manchester United, according to Touche Ross, with net assets of £12.07 million. Third is the relegated West Ham United, with £8.98 million.

Meeting the Taylor demands on ground improvements is proving a financial nightmare for most clubs, involving pincher requirements of huge expense and lower ground capacity, and threatens to dent football club profitability for some years. Its bonus, at least for the big clubs, was that it forced the pace on the formation of the Premier League, and the subsequent television deal which will go a long way to footing the bill.

But at long last, the financing of football clubs is moving into the real world. What this means for holders of shares in the three quoted companies is less difficult to predict than the results of tomorrow's matches.

Perhaps a more relevant question is whether these companies, despite their stock market presence, should be based on normal investment criteria at all. Largely because of the historical failure of clubs to reward their owners in monetary terms, none has attracted many serious investors, and the shares have largely ended up in the hands of fans, few of whom are looking for financial recompense.

Their goal is not a financial one. The rewards they look for are on the pitch, and their preference is to see any profit invested in new players to improve the team's challenge for honours. So competitive and short-term a business is football that the temptation to the board is to keep spending in the transfer market. No board could expect to undertake such spending with more encouragement from its shareholders.

These thoughts may well comfort Sir Roland, and Messrs Sugar and Burr as they settle into their seats tomorrow. They will know that come next year's annual meeting, they will be judged, not on the performance of the share price, but on whether there is a piece of silverware beside them on the platform. Listen closely, and you may hear their cheers above those of the paying customers.

## Norman Lamont's L-shaped recovery

What little is left of the government's economic strategy is based on one simple but powerful philosophical conviction — the confidence that, sooner or later, something will turn up. Microwebism as an economic philosophy does not seem to inspire much respect in the financial markets, to judge by sterling's slow but steady decline towards its absolute ERM floor of DM2.7780. Yet when the "something" that has to turn up is the economy, Norman Lamont, may finally be in luck.

Yesterday's industrial output figures could hardly be described as harbingers of a dynamic recovery, but they did suggest that the gloom about a never-ending recession was somewhat overdone. With all the usual caveats against over-interpreting monthly figures, a consistent picture is emerging from the recent official figures. Both output and demand seem to have stopped falling between Christmas and Easter. The Treasury's forecasts of a "V-shaped" recovery have, of course, been confounded. Given the ERM constraint and the Treasury's unwillingness to stimulate the economy through fiscal policy, even a normal U-shaped recovery may be out of reach. As Phillips & Drew's perennially gloomy economist Bill Martin has long predicted, an "L-shaped" cycle may be the best that Britain can currently hope for. But as long as the base of the "L" is sloping gently upwards, rather than downwards, the City, the Treasury and even public opinion, may be quite satisfied.

Today many industrialists look back nostalgically on Sir Geoffrey Howe's famous 1981 Budget for allegedly ending the last recession. Yet in the Howe-Lawson cycle, it was not until January 1988, nearly nine years after the start of the recession, that manufacturing output returned to its previous peak. If the CBI, the City and the public are as easily satisfied in the 1990s as they were in the 1980s, Norman Lamont may yet have the last laugh.

## Water pressure

Extra investment used to mean extra profits for an efficient water company. Increasing resistance to higher water prices has changed that. The companies are not being allowed to pass on the full cost of extra regulatory requirements to consumers as they had assumed and have realised that this change will be set more formally into the framework of the Water Act when Ian Byatt, their financial regulator reviews assumptions about loan gearing, cost of capital and efficiency in setting price limits after 1994.

The pressure Mr Byatt is exerting on the quality regulators and the government to put greater emphasis on cost in the trade-off against purity was therefore welcome news for the water companies. His suggestions about what could be saved on costs will be far less welcome. They thought they had done well to reduce costs since privatisation and those behindhand have now started programmes to catch up. But much of this was envisaged as a one-off adjustment to private sector standards. Instead, Mr Byatt expects greater gains in future.

Robert Miller-Bakewell of County NatWest calculates that real price cuts of about 2.3 per cent a year for efficiency would be built into future price limits against perhaps 1.5 per cent on average in the past. This may, however, not be uniform, since the regulator will use his comparison tables to put more pressure on the less efficient. The pressure on prices will also stiffen Mr Byatt's resolve to cut the assumed average cost of capital from 7 to 6 per cent at the same time as he imposes higher loan gearing. Overall, the companies might be expected almost to double investment with hardly any rise in permitted price increases. Stock market relief may therefore have been premature.

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Booze brokers

OVERLOADED cars at Dover, laden with duty-free French wine and champagne, could soon be a thing of the past. A new broking service, with the objective of being the John Lewis of the drinks trade — by adopting its "Never knowingly undersold" slogan — has been launched by some of the best connected men in the business. Called Davis Browning & Partners, and based in London's Curzon Street, it is the brainchild of two of them, Teddy Davis, aged 64, ex-SAS and, in the 1980s the man responsible for the sale and marketing of Krug in the UK, and Ralph Browning, former chairman of Remy & Associates. Others in the team are Ned Serocold, Charles Thompson, and Paul Locke, a wine connoisseur, racehorse owner and founder of estate agency Mann & Co. "We are running it as a partnership and are in a very exciting situation," says Davis. "Champagne is coming out of everybody's ears, the market is over-supplied, and the ridiculous prices the producers have been charging are no longer going to be viable. We will be able to undercut retail prices of champagne, fine wines, and all other drinks by up to 20 per cent. A lot of people who have suffered at Lloyd's have big cellars and that stock is now coming onto the market."

### Movable feast

SIR John Quinlan personally inaugurated Barclays' initiative on Saturday opening at its

### ROYAL INSURANCE



"Don't say you've lost our 2p dividend."

### For the record

The latest *International Who's Who* goes on sale this week and the publication is living up to its reputation for giving the nasty facts which its rival *Who's Who* omits. Notable this time are the number of UK businessmen with criminal records or charges against their names. Gerald Ronson's entry features large, with full details of his convictions, sentence, £5 million fine, and release from prison. Ernest Saunders also warrants a mention with a quarter of his 16 line entry given over to details of convictions. Absent, however, is Polly Peck's Asil Nadir. According to editor Richard Fitzwilliams, Nadir, who had not been featured before, supplied an entry on request — "he even sent a large photo" — but Fitzwilliams decided not to include him after Polly Peck's demise. Robert Maxwell's entry has been dropped and the charges against his sons, Ian and Kevin, came too late for inclusion. "I am pencilling in something now for inclusion next time round," Fitzwilliams says, adding that he will be sending a draft of the entries to the brothers for comment, wherever they may be.

On a variation of the first cuckoo theme, the *Institute of Financial Accountants* is living up to the profession's reputation for forward thinking and has just sent out free copies of its 1993 pocket diary. Does this qualify as the first sighting of the year?

CAROL LEONARD

### RPI linking cut value of pension

From Dr Mary Casling

As a single woman and a septuagenarian pensioner I was interested to read the letters of Valerie Goldberg (August 6) and Joan Seed (August 12) in your Business Letters Column.

I was a local government employee for nearly 30 years and retired in 1976 on a pension of one-third of my final salary. For some years the ratio between my pension and what I would have earned if still in employment was maintained, but the adjustments to pension were then linked to the Retail Prices

Index, so that now my pension equates to one-quarter of what my salary would have been if still in employment. The financial difference is considerable. If the previous ratio had been maintained there would have been money available to have the house painted, replenish my diminishing wardrobe and I should not have had to dispense with the car and put the house up for sale to realise capital to invest to increase my income.

Yours faithfully,  
MARY CASLING,  
11 Saxton Close,  
Stratford-upon-Avon,  
Warwickshire.

### Dollar link more important than the ERM

From Mr Harold Winton

Sir, Many of the present ills in our economy could have been avoided if Great Britain had remained outside the exchange-rate mechanism and linked the pound directly to the dollar.

Moreover, since commodity prices are valued in dollars, future inflation remains vulnerable to the pound/dollar value.

Parity between the two currencies in November 1990 would have resulted in a successful 15 per cent devaluation against our European trade rivals, resulting in a reduction in UK interest rates in line with the US.

Such an arrangement would prevent any future sterling crisis and would have been a more natural relationship than an economic union with former enemies.

Yours faithfully,  
HAROLD WINTON,  
Winton Associates Limited,  
35 Queens Grove,  
St John's Wood,  
NW8.

### A question of confidence in Lloyd's

From Mr H.G. Edwards

Good Faith as it is possible to be. There is no sense of shame. No honour. I cannot understand why anyone would have any dealings with a market of such ill repute.

Yours truly,  
H.G. EDWARDS,  
11 Bermuda House,  
Mount Park Road,  
Harrow on the Hill,  
Middlesex.

### Counting the costs of outside auditors, actuaries and advisers

From Mr David Barrett

Sir, RA Walker believes that members of occupational pensions funds would feel more comfortable in the knowledge that separate auditors were involved instead of the employing company's own auditors (Business Times, August 11).

Would not similar arguments apply to separate actuaries and separate legal

advisers? Would the members be just as comfortable if benefits were downgraded because of the additional significant expenses?

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID BARRETT,  
1 Jordan Close,  
Briton Hill Road,  
Sanderstead, Surrey.

### Return to sender

From Mr Edward Lewis

Sir, I have recently agreed to Southern Water's scrip dividend, but before signing the form, I noted the following clause:

"I authorise you to send at my risk by first-class post a share certificate for the new ordinary shares issued to me pursuant to this Form of Election and Mandate."

I have been told by the company that unless I agree to this condition, they will not send me my share certificate. Taking into account the fact that letters occasionally go astray, and the fact that I have no control over the printing of the address on the envelope or its proper delivery, I think that it is extremely unfair that I should be made financially liable for its loss when there has been no fault on my part.

I wonder if anything can be done about this, perhaps Taurus being introduced next year, because certainly this plc seems to care little for the interests of this member. What do other people think?

Yours faithfully,  
EDWARD LEWIS,  
High Hopes,  
5 North Road West,  
Hythe,  
Kent.

## REVISED INVESTMENT INTEREST RATES

EFFECTIVE FROM 15 AUGUST 1992

| CURRENT ISSUES                                |         |                  |       |                |
|---|---------|------------------|-------|----------------|
|   | % Gross | % Gross C.A.R.*1 | % Net | % Net C.A.R.*1 |
| <b>MONTHLY INCOME ACCOUNT</b>                 |         |                  |       |                |
| £40,000 or more                               | 9.66    | 10.10            | 7.25  | 7.50           |
| £25,000 - £39,999                             | 9.20    | 9.60             | 6.90  | 7.12           |
| £10,000 - £24,999                             | 8.51    | 8.85             | 6.38  | 6.57           |
| £2,500 - £9,999                               | 7.58    | 7.85             | 5.69  | 5.84           |
| £1 - £2,499                                   | 2.00    | 2.02             | 1.50  | 1.51           |
| <b>MONEYSPINNER CLASSIC</b> (Annual Interest) |         |                  |       |                |
| £40,000 or more                               | 9.85    | -                | 7.39  | -              |
| £25,000 - £39,999                             | 9.35    | -                | 7.01  | -              |
| £10,000 - £24,999                             | 8.60    | -                | 6.45  | -              |
| £500 - £9,999                                 | 7.60    | -                | 5.70  | -              |
| £1 - £499                                     | 2.00    | -                | 1.50  | -              |
| <b>CURRENT ACCOUNT</b>                        |         |                  |       |                |
| £25,000 or more                               | 9.34    | 9.75             | 7.01  | 7.24           |
| £10,000 - £24,999                             | 8.14    | 8.45             | 6.11  | 6.28           |
| £2,500 - £9,999                               | 7.49    | 7.75             | 5.62  | 5.77           |
| £1,000 - £2,499                               | 4.27    | 4.35             | 3.20  | 3.25           |
| £1 - £999                                     | 3.00    | 3.04             | 2.25  | 2.27           |
| <b>TESSA</b> Annual 10.25 - Monthly 9.75      |         |                  |       |                |
| <b>BASIC SAVINGS RATE</b> (Unchanged) 2.00    |         |                  |       |                |
| <b>GO DIRECT ACCOUNT</b> Rates unchanged      |         |                  |       |                |

Rates min. 20p.  
\*1 Compound Annual Rate is the annual return on your savings if all interest payments are reinvested in the account.  
\*2 Income will be payable net of basic rate income tax, presently 25%, in each month. It is reclaimed by non-taxpayers or, subject to the required registration, gross.  
Discounted Accounts: interest rates on discounted accounts will be reduced with effect from 15.8.92. Details will appear in selected national press on 15.8.92.

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## Portfolio

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| No | Company      | Group      | Gain or Loss |
|----|--------------|------------|--------------|
| 1  | HSBC         | Banking    | 1.00         |
| 2  | Nat. Foods   | Food       | 1.00         |
| 3  | Land Sec     | Property   | 1.00         |
| 4  | Vodafone     | Telecom    | 1.00         |
| 5  | Son & New    | Breweries  | 1.00         |
| 6  | Whitbread A  | Breweries  | 1.00         |
| 7  | Cardiff Prop | Property   | 1.00         |
| 8  | Sainsbury J  | Food       | 1.00         |
| 9  | Morrison W   | Food       | 1.00         |
| 10 | Ragby Group  | Building   | 1.00         |
| 11 | BOC          | Industrial | 1.00         |
| 12 | BET Ord      | Industrial | 1.00         |
| 13 | Bulmer (H) P | Breweries  | 1.00         |
| 14 | Countryside  | Chemical   | 1.00         |
| 15 | Pilkington   | Chemical   | 1.00         |
| 16 | Pearson      | Newspaper  | 1.00         |
| 17 | Handys       | Drugs      | 1.00         |
| 18 | Mark Spencer | Drugs      | 1.00         |
| 19 | Time & Life  | Food       | 1.00         |
| 20 | Shorehouse   | Drugs      | 1.00         |
| 21 | Transit      | Transport  | 1.00         |
| 22 | McLachlan    | Industrial | 1.00         |
| 23 | Alcan        | Aluminium  | 1.00         |
| 24 | Alcan        | Aluminium  | 1.00         |
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| 48 | Alcan        | Aluminium  | 1.00         |
| 49 | Alcan        | Aluminium  | 1.00         |
| 50 | Alcan        | Aluminium  | 1.00         |

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Please take into account any dividends

Weekly dividend

Please make a note of your daily total for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in tomorrow's newspaper.

MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT SUN

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday.

The £4,000 will be added to today's competition.

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## Technical recovery

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began August 10. Dealings end August 21. Settlement day August 24. Settlement day September 1. Forward buyings are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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## Portfolio

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# INFOTECH TIMES

## Keep in touch, electronically

Email is slowly replacing the office memo.  
**Ken Young** considers the potential

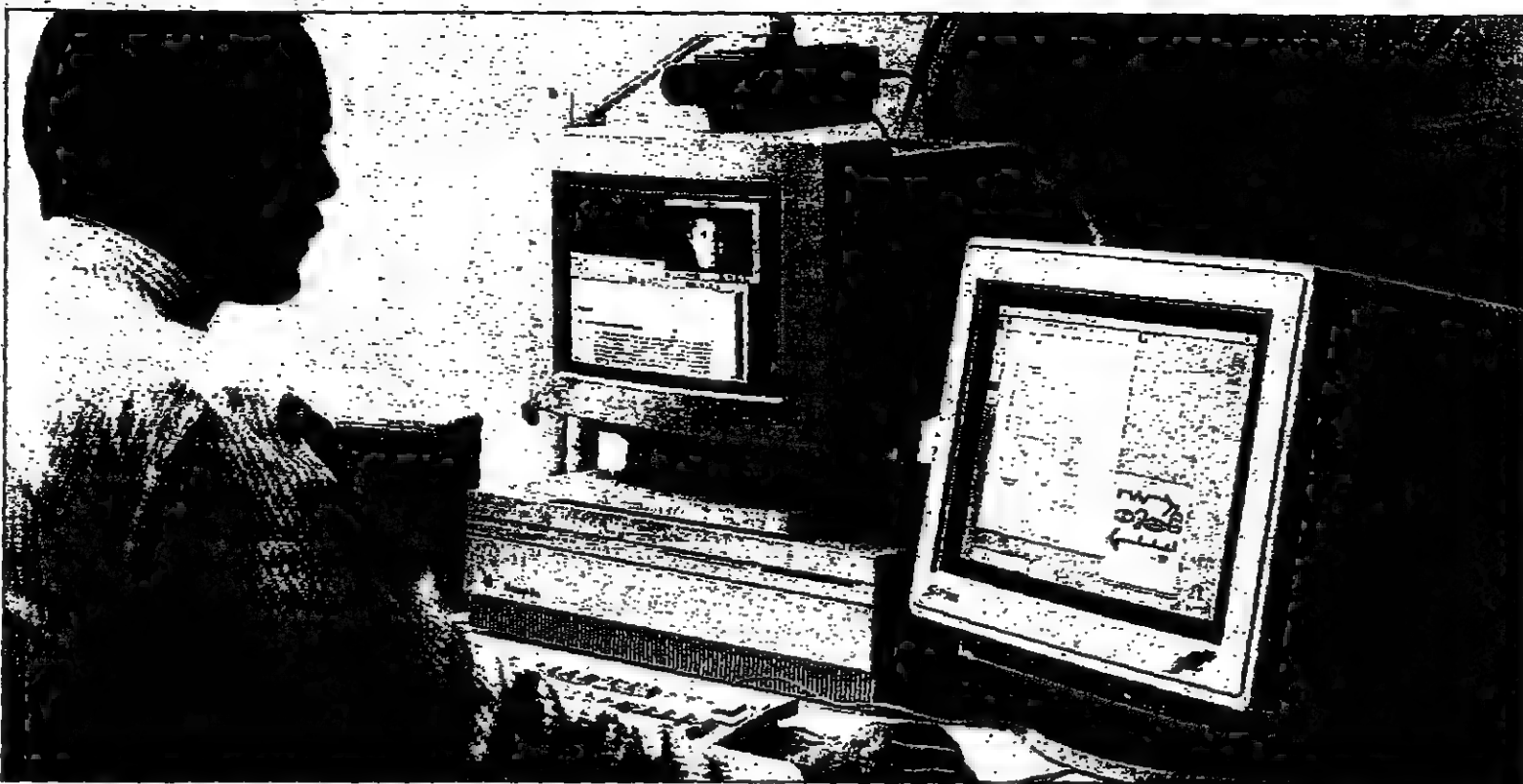
The corporate memo may be something of an icon in business life, but it is now under attack from more powerful technologies.

The most straightforward approach has been to replace the memo with an electronic mail system, commonly known as email. Email systems allow a PC user to have an electronic mailbox — a storage address on a central computer — into which messages or even large documents can be placed. The obvious benefits are that less paper is used, messages can be sent to multiple locations, and hundreds or even thousands of users can be contacted.

Psychologists report that email flattens office hierarchy by making communication between levels of management easier. On the negative side, non-computer-literate users are sometimes put off by the abstract nature of sending messages via computer, and use is limited by the need to have access to a computer.

Perhaps the biggest resistance to email is that its use tends to be restricted to a particular user group. Ideally email systems would be like the postal service, offering delivery to any address. In reality they are like private services — exchanging messages only by arrangement. Many companies have introduced in-house email and bolted on "gateways" that give links to public email networks or global data networks.

Realising how this haphazard approach damages the market, suppliers are adopting a messaging standard known



Already there: video mail is the latest thing in electronic communication. In office-to-office messaging people can see one another on screen

as X400, by which disparate email systems can be interconnected without losing functions. Use of this standard has previously been restricted to larger companies with the required technical expertise.

Now X400 is becoming accessible to smaller operations with software packages

such products will stimulate the market. "They will bring email to the desktop and significantly lower the cost of connecting to other services via X400," he says.

Email, however, is essentially a text service. The growth of more sophisticated "groupware" software is causing a reassessment of email's requirements. In its simplest form, a groupware package allows several PC users to work co-operatively and even simultaneously.

Meanwhile, the increasing use of high-bandwidth telecom links means large amounts of data can more easily be shared by users, often including text and images.

This move towards combining text and images is bringing multimedia into the debate. Multimedia takes the idea a stage further by combining text, video and sound. At

the Olivetti Research Laboratory in Cambridge scientists believe multimedia can deliver the ultimate form of messaging — video mail. Its prototype Pandora's Box system allows messaging, using videocameras attached to 40 users' PCs.

Dr Andy Hopper, the director of the laboratory, says that although videomail needs big storage capacity, its use within the laboratory's private network has become second nature. "People are not sure what you say in a complete stranger in a videomail message," he says.

"Developing the right approach will take time," Jim Moffat, the product manager of Lotus Development, whose CC-Mail is the world's most widely used email package, believes the difference between email and groupware and multimedia is gradually blurring. "Increasingly it is possible to send mail

from within specialised applications combining text, images and voice," he says.

Mr Moffat adds that because of the large amounts of data needed by video, there is a growing tendency to offer "voice annotation". This allows a user to send mail or a document to a colleague and

designed specifically for simultaneous voice and data traffic. These are gradually becoming available to business users, and products offering multimedia messaging are now available.

Fujitsu's desktop conferencing package, for example, allows a PC user to share text and images with another PC user while talking over a digital telephone link.

Either party can modify material with a light pen or a mouse.

Changes will appear simultaneously on both screens. A complete system costs about £2,000. The North American group Northern Telecom has also released ISDN multimedia products aimed at PC and Apple users. The group says its Visit Video product will be the first to allow video-conferencing between Apple- and IBM-compatible machines.

### Users can send a document and leave voice messages in it

leave voice messages within it. When the message is picked up a screen icon, such as a telephone, will indicate a voice message. The voice can be heard through a telephone link to the PC or by installing a voice card for about £200.

Integrated services digital networks (ISDN) have been

## Olympic win for civil servants

Barcelona stands to benefit from staging the Olympic Games in many ways, not least through the development of an "electronic civil servant".

Using technology originally developed for the Games, Barcelona council officials have computerised their administrative systems to cope with Spain's form-filling society.

From a distance, the "citizen information point", or CIP, looks like the sort of machine you would expect to find inside an amusement arcade. This hi-tech cabinet holds a touch-screen personal computer and printer. A conventional keyboard is hidden away inside the cabinet.

In use, a terminal flashes up a series of small symbols, or icons, to guide users through an enquiry. The user then taps in the relevant details, such as name and car registration, using the touch-screen's keyboard picture.

The terminal matches this information with details stored in the council's mainframe computer and, if all is well, the printer in the terminal prints the relevant official form for the user to take away.

The pilot system can be used only to provide copies of certain lost documents, which can be important in a country where official proof is often required, such as a parking or speeding fine, dog licence or local tax has been paid. In the first month, 5,000 people used the system.

Next year, the trial is to be

extended to allow payment using credit cards. Eventually further services linked to "smart" cards — those able to store information — are planned that will read personal details into the system, link up with local bank computers and transfer funds from accounts directly into the council's account to pay bills in a truly cashless transaction.

The introduction of stiffer penalties for late payment — 20 per cent of the outstanding amount is normal — could tempt the public into paying their dues quicker by using the terminal.

By keeping closer track of outstanding accounts, officials also hope to reduce losses by the government because of non-payment.

This second stage in the CIP's development will coincide with the Spanish government's plan to replace the present paper national identity card with a plastic equivalent "smart" card that will store details about individuals.

Instead of users keying details into the system, the card will do the transfer automatically. For security, individuals will be checked by being asked a series of questions only the authorised card-holder would be able to answer, such as length of residence in a current address.

The sales contract for the CIPs will be worth about £900,000 to Rank Xerox Spain, which is supplying the terminals, and which hopes that business will appreciate its obvious advantages in commercial applications.

CLIVE COULDWELL

### New products will stimulate the market and lower costs

that make connection to networks that use it cheaper and simpler to arrange. Such packages are expected to ensure that smaller companies and individual users will be able to connect with others using it.

Roger Dean, the executive director of the European Electronic Messaging Association,

### Motorists can now get pagers with instant road information in text form

Motorists are being offered a new means of finding out about serious traffic hold-ups — the cause of so much frustration and increasing expense to businesses. Air Call, the paging operator, is to use information from the AA to produce a pager that will give out traffic information to motorists.

The UK has been divided into ten traffic zones and the pagers, which cost £20 a month, receive information for the zone in which the user is located.

Motorists will also receive all reports of incidents on the national motorway network to help them to plan long-distance journeys.

The information is the same as that which the AA supplies to all local radio stations. The difference, Air Call says, is that users will receive it on a continual basis, rather than at the times dictated by the broadcasters. "Motorists will obtain the information within 60 seconds of it being received by the AA," says Caroline Claret, Air Call's group product manager.

The traffic pagers have a screen with four lines and 80 characters, unlike a typical pager, which has a single line containing 20 characters. Users are alerted to an incoming message by a flashing light or a tone. The messages are then displayed in text format. They include the date and time, the

## Flashes that beat the jams



You have been warned: an Air Call pager gives the message

location of an incident and possibly a suggested alternative route.

In the busiest zones, such as London and the South-East, which covers an area from Cambridgeshire to the Kent coast, motorists could receive up to 40 messages an hour during the peak periods and more than 200 messages throughout a typical day.

This has given rise to concern about road safety should motorists look at pagers while driving. Air Call insists that the pagers should be used for pre-journey planning purposes, not as "in-vehicle navigation aids".

The transport department has expressed concern about the increasing use of new in-vehicle hardware to provide motorists with traffic information. The department has commissioned researchers from ICE Ergonomics at Loughborough University to assess the practicality of establishing a code of practice for the use and design of in-vehicle IT systems, which include everything from new navigation aids to car phones and mobile fax machines.

Jane Robertson, a Loughborough researcher, says she hopes that a code of practice could be in existence within 12

months, but she says it would be voluntary.

Air Call has also developed a big version of the traffic pagers, called Pagesign, which can be put up in places such as car parks, petrol stations and sports venues.

BT, meanwhile, is also working on the use of paging technology to provide travellers with regularly updated information.

BT is a joint partner in two projects, part-funded by the European Community, which will test pagers on the Kent side of the London-to-Paris corridor and in a traffic research project being planned for Birmingham.

The Kent trials are due to start next summer. A number of cars supplied by Ford will have special pagers installed in their dashboard, enabling motorists to receive regular messages about traffic conditions in Kent and northern France.

In the Birmingham trials, pager users will be able to receive a variety of travel information, including the location of accidents and traffic jams, and the departure times of local buses and trains.

"As the paging network is already in existence, it might not be too long before pagers offer travellers a wealth of information about local road conditions and travel conditions," says David Williams, of BT's Mobile Data Systems.

ALAN JABEZ

## Speedy advance

A METHOD of tying together computer chips with superconducting materials, a technique that could greatly speed up computers, has been developed by Superconductor Technologies, a Californian firm. Superconductors are materials which, when chilled to very low temperatures, allow electricity to flow unimpeded, unlike traditional

### ONLINE

materials such as copper, which slow down the current. The superconducting chip module is experimental, however, and more work is needed before it can be a commercially useful technique, Bob Hammond, the company president, says. Superconductors traditionally need extremely low temperatures to operate. But in recent years, scientists have developed superconductors that operate at high but still frigid temperatures.

### Fast circuits

A MULTINATIONAL project to develop the next generation of digital circuits, which will carry a wide variety of electronic information and telecommunications at high speed, is to use Japanese-designed software. The project to develop a more advanced version of the integrated circuit digital network (ISDN) has been promoted by companies including NTT, AT&T and Siemens.

The consortium will use software called Tron, able to calculate customer charges at a high speed.

The project started in 1991 and aims to put ISDN to practical use in Japan by 1995.

### Radio tax stays

THE duties imposed on imports of South Korean car radios by the European Community six months ago to deter dumping are to be made

permanent. The rate of duty has been set at 34 per cent, with reduced rates for 18 companies that co-operated with an EC investigation into radio prices. One company, Goldstar, will pay duties of 4 per cent. The enquiry found that some imports from South Korea were being sold at less than it cost to manufacture them.

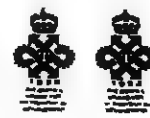
### Profits warning

HEWLETT-Packard has issued a warning that profits for the three months to the end of last month will be well below analysts' expectations because of falling sales. Hewlett-Packard has had two consecutive quarters of strong growth in profits at a time when much of the computer industry has been sluggish.

The company posted a gain over last year of 40 per cent in its second quarter and 49 per cent in its first quarter. Hewlett-Packard has a large share of the printer business and has about 20 per cent of the fast-growing and lucrative workstation market.

## IBM'S HIDDEN WINNER AT THE OLYMPICS

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# The gamble that paid off

BY RINGER PEARSON

people like you"

TO BUSINESS



He admits that, after opening his doors for business, the first six months were "a bit scary". There

was not much work coming in. Now his work has been widely recognised and is to be found in a variety of locations. At least two books he has bound have been presented to the Queen for her library. He does extensive book renovation and specialist binding work for the University of Kent and the county's schools and libraries. At the other end of the scale, he is called on to re-stitch autograph albums, renovate dog-eared comic books and re-cover family bibles.

He adds: "I've now got customers all over this country, a lot from Europe and have also done a good deal of work for Americans."

He added: "Many who have set up as bookbinders have attempted to view it as a purely commercial business. But it's not. It's a craft and not something you can treat as an ordinary job. I usually work from 8.00am to 7.00pm, six days a week, sometimes more. It's the only way to make it work as a business, I think."

□3i, Britain's biggest provider of venture capital, has made its first investments in growing businesses from its £75 million Greater London Growth Fund, launched last January. Just over £15 million has been invested in 15 enterprises

□ **Birmingham Chamber of Industry and Commerce** is offering a course for telephonists and receptionists in an attempt to stamp out unhelpful responses. The department was jittery by a number of unprofessional answers when it rang members with enquiries from prospective buyers.  
Course details: 021-456 1001.

EDITOR: DEREK HARRIS

# THE TIMES

## READER OFFER

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## Traditional foes rejoin battle

## South Africans near moment of truth against All Blacks

FROM DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT, IN PRETORIA

FORGET tours to Europe, skirt policy round British Isles, the series which has always mattered most to South Africa and New Zealand is the one that resumes between them tomorrow at that intensely claustrophobic stadium, Ellis Park, in Johannesburg.

Australia, whom South Africa play a week later in Cape Town, may hold the World Cup, but tomorrow's game holds pride of place because of the tradition of rivalry for world supremacy between these two rugby-mad countries. Since they first met in 1921, South Africa lead New Zealand by 20 victories to 15.

For South Africans, it is an emotional moment — for white South Africans, anyway, even though their governing body now offers a unified face to the world.

Perhaps Jamie Brecht, the Transvaal No. 8 who captained South Africa in 1989, expressed it best: "This is the reason I kept playing," Brecht, 33, said.

"It's the magic moment, and it will be again when those picked to tour board the aeroplane in their green blazers in September to go to France and England."

Nas Botha, the blond stand-off half whose international career includes 23 caps to 1980 and who captains his country in their first genuine

international in eight years, says: "South African rugby is in an in-between period. His players are between the glories of former years and a future which, they hope, will see them swiftly restored to the peaks of their pre-isolation period. Understandably, they are uncertain about the next two weeks.

The Springboks are aware of a nation's expectation. Their cricketers have been through that already, as have their athletes, and Botha pertinently points out that the South African tennis players, accustomed to international competition, were the ones who performed well at the Olympic Games in Barcelona while the athletes (the outstanding Meyer excepted) struggled because of their prolonged absence from the world scene.

"I think we can adapt sooner than other sports," Botha said. "After all, the game is still the same even though other countries may have more advanced training techniques. At the end of the day if you play with heart and do your job, you can make it difficult for anyone."

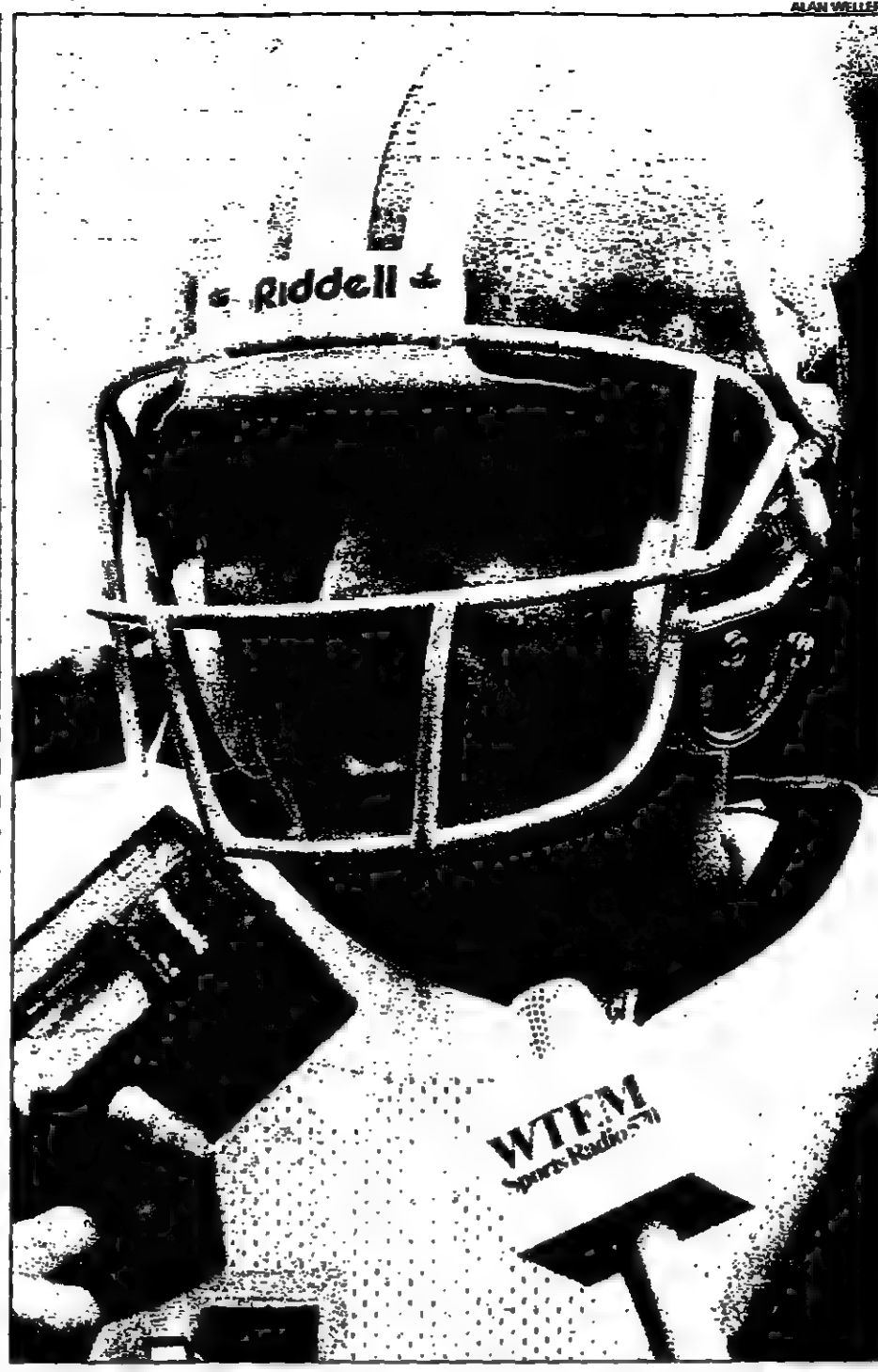
"We are not going to change the whole world by beating anyone on Saturday, but get the nation behind us. By beating New Zealand or Australia in one game we could not call ourselves world

champions because Australia had to win six games to do that." But Botha could not resist adding: "But if we do, we will be very close."

Although he says he is playing "his rugby" week by week, he can reasonably expect Botha (aged 34, like Darné Gerber, his centre) and the other old heads in this side to tour this autumn, but that may be the extent of their contribution to South Africa's reinstatement to world rugby.

We should know more of how hectic that will be after tomorrow, when the second meeting of the Southern Hemisphere Alliance, formed in Sydney in February and incorporating Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Argentina, has been held in Johannesburg. The primary aim of this meeting is to formulate a rolling programme of tours over the next five years which the International Rugby Football Board will be expected to rubber-stamp.

The southern hemisphere countries continue to flex their muscles in the administrative sense and the logical conclusion of their discussions, they perceive, is not only touring — South Africa are due in Australia next summer and New Zealand in 1994 — but their own annual championship, with a play-off against the five nations' champions the icing on the cake.



MARK RYPIEN, above, must have felt like the quintessential accidental tourist during the Washington Redskins' flight to London on Tuesday night when a cabin attendant tumbled his chicken dinner into his lap (Robert Kirby writes). Not to worry — he could provide his own desert, having just ended a 23-day contract hold-out by signing a lucrative deal with the Super Bowl champions.

Rypien, who will lead the Redskins against the San Francisco 49ers in American Bowl VII at Wembley on Sunday, agreed a three-year, \$9 million contract that could make him the second highest paid player in the National Football League. If he maintains the standards he set last year, when he was named most valuable player in the championship game, he will earn about \$3.6 million this season. "I'm

happy to be with the club now," Rypien, 29, said after practice at the Crystal Palace National Sports Centre. "The further things went on in South contract negotiations, I think I would have been the one suffering. It's a bit difficult getting back into it on a rainy day like this. The ball gets wet and heavy and feels like a brick. I got a bit fatigued after 15 throws, but I will get the rustiness out after a couple of days."

Rypien's team-mates welcomed him back with requests for loans. Last year his salary ranked fourth among quarterbacks but he now trails only Dan Marino, of the Miami Dolphins, who earns about \$4.4 million. He would need to earn most of his incentives to move ahead of Joe Montana of the 49ers, who draws \$3.25 million. Montana's elbow injury is expected to keep him out on Sunday.

## SHOOTING

## Small-bore title taken by Oliphant

JOHN Oliphant, of Basildon rifle club, the Scottish small-bore champion, won the premier class K grand aggregate at the national small-bore rifle championships at Bisley yesterday with 2,716 points out of 2,800 in the six most important events of the week.

RESULTS: National small-bore championships (Bisley, 27-28 Aug). Trophy (class K aggregate): 1. J. Oliphant (Basildon), 2,716 pts; 2. M. Bagn (Rugby), 2,715 pts; 3. S. Riles (Barnstaple), 2,705 pts; 4. J. O'Connell (Barnstaple), 2,704 pts; 5. J. O'Connell (Barnstaple), 2,703 pts; 6. J. O'Connell (Barnstaple), 2,702 pts; 7. J. O'Connell (Barnstaple), 2,701 pts; 8. J. O'Connell (Barnstaple), 2,700 pts; 9. J. O'Connell (Barnstaple), 2,699 pts; 10. J. O'Connell (Barnstaple), 2,698 pts; 11. J. O'Connell (Barnstaple), 2,697 pts; 12. J. O'Connell (Barnstaple), 2,696 pts; 13. J. O'Connell (Barnstaple), 2,695 pts; 14. J. O'Connell (Barnstaple), 2,694 pts; 15. J. O'Connell (Barnstaple), 2,693 pts; 16. J. O'Connell (Barnstaple), 2,692 pts; 17. J. O'Connell (Barnstaple), 2,691 pts; 18. J. O'Connell (Barnstaple), 2,690 pts; 19. J. O'Connell (Barnstaple), 2,689 pts; 20. J. O'Connell (Barnstaple), 2,688 pts; 21. J. O'Connell (Barnstaple), 2,687 pts; 22. J. O'Connell (Barnstaple), 2,686 pts; 23. J. 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HEALTH p4  
Birth of an  
enterprise — a  
midwife-run  
operation



# LIFE & TIMES

FRIDAY AUGUST 14 1992

MOTORING p7  
Many happy  
returns —  
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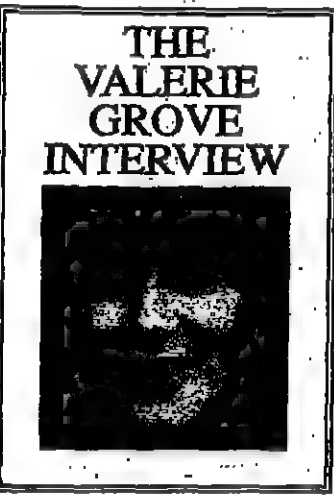


## Big Brother is watching them

Nicholas Hinton, the director general of the Save the Children Fund, has a few things he'd like to say to those who police the world's conflicts

Nicholas Hinton has good news to report. On Wednesday he announced a result that many captains of industry would envy: an increase in income last year of 77 per cent, to a record £99.6 million.

The bad news is that the Save the Children Fund (SCF), of which he is director general, needs every penny of that to shoulder its global burdens. It has been a terrible year for famine, civil strife and refugees. There is more danger than ever of compassion fatigue. How many more pictures of hollow-eyed, emaciated children must we see?



THE  
VALERIE  
GROVE  
INTERVIEW

"We have a very tough policy on pictures of emaciated kids," he says. "You won't see any such pictures from Bhutan, because there aren't any emaciated children there. We always reflect the position as it is. We are honest and straightforward. It is one of our image guidelines."

He is 50, short, brisk and pinky prosperous looking: like a City down-raider rather than a trader in aid. He lives with his wife Deborah and their daughter Josephine in a tall, stuccoed house in Fimble, south London. He is a son of the vicarage, a boy chorister, a music scholar and an inveterate writer of letters to *The Times*.

His latest letter, on August 5, spoke out boldly about what off is thought: that the United Nations is too dithery about urgent international problems. At 50, Mr Hinton is in his prime, but, as it approaches its 50th anniversary, the UN is creakingly senile. "It has failed to sustain a peace settlement in Cambodia, to inspire credibility in Iraq, to deal with Afghan refugees or make progress in the former Yugoslav republics," he wrote. "It has failed to galvanise the world community to provide an adequate response to the effects of civil strife and famine in eastern and southern Africa." Its responses to famines are cumbersome, and fragmented by labyrinthine bureaucracy, he added. It has "too many mansions" (ie its 40 associated agencies, with many areas overlapping) and is plagued by malfunction. It is time, he believes, to take a fresh look at the UN charter and its fundamental aims.

The ending of the cold war promised much, but the opportunities it seemed to offer for the better functioning of the UN have not materialised.

"The League of Nations was reinvented after the second world war," he says. "Now we are in a very different world again. There is a case for examining whether or not the UN and its family of agencies is equipped to have the appropriate mandates."

"Take Somalia. This human tragedy has been brewing for 18 months, but the international community has delayed and dithered so that millions of people are facing death. They have not had the will to take the action that was blindingly obviously necessary."

"What is needed now is to flood the country with mammoth quantities of food, so that it becomes a non-tradable commodity. Food has become the problem, the object of the fighting and looting. If there was enough food there would be no need for people to fight and kill each other for it."

"The next step would be to restore a degree of security, which would probably involve armed intervention for a period. The third step would be to help in conciliation: but the emergency food relief is an essential precursor to the peace process."

"One of the effects of the end of the cold war was that weapons got into everybody's hands. Somalia must be the most-armed country in the world, where virtually every-

body carries weapons, even children. There is a psychotic mood in the country, with armed 12-year-olds manning roadblocks. This makes it impossible for the SCF to deliver food except on armed lorries, or they would be looted.

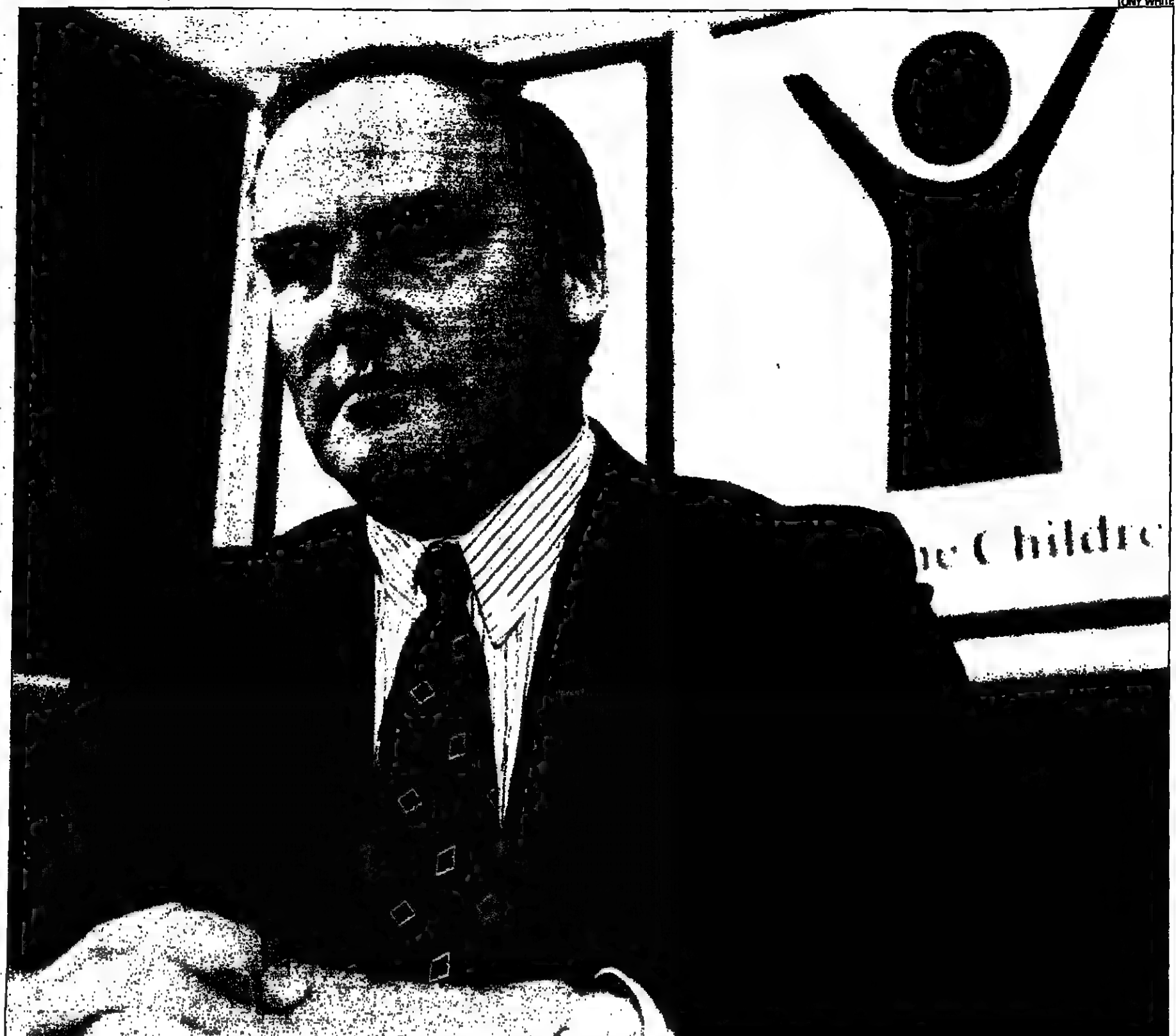
"That it was a country where law had broken down was obvious for a very long time, but the failure to act has led to an appalling deterioration. So the work of the SCF becomes incredibly frustrating. We are driven to perform only very vital but very basic tasks: we are feeding 20,000 children a day in and around Mogadishu, the capital, just to keep the children alive. We cannot carry out our more usual and more sophisticated programmes of building up primary health care or education, or improve sanitation to cut down on disease."

The SCF has an industrious figurehead in the Princess Royal, its president, whose active involvement has done much for the charity, and it must be said, for her own image. Publicity is one of the first rules of charity, as was recognised by SCF's founder, Eglantine Jebb, who was, like so many other pioneering spirits, a well-born Victorian lady.

Miss Jebb had been to Oxford University and trained as a teacher. But it was after the first world war, when she travelled to Macedonia and helped to organise relief for the Balkan countries — a situation with many resonances today — that she became horrified by the plight of the children orphaned and destitute as a result of the allied blockade. She photographed the children and the pictures were published in the British press. It was against the law, it turned out, to publish pictures of the enemy's allies, even children. She was prosecuted — her first taste of publicity — and acquitted. Her fame was established. When she launched the fund in 1919, she managed to fill the Albert Hall.

She felt that simply providing food and services for children was not enough: the whole context of children's upbringing and how to legislate for them must be addressed. In Geneva she drew up the first charter for the rights of the child, adopted by the first League of Nations 65 years later. It was the basis of the 1989 UN convention on children's rights.

The inheritor of Miss Jebb's child-saving mantle was born on the 10th of March in 1942, the eldest of three children of Canon John Hinton, late Rector of Bridport in Dorset. He was sent away at eight to be a chorister at Salisbury Cathedral School, where he is now on the board, and setting up a foundation for the first girls' cathedral choir, "an equal opportunities move". (Sir Edward Heath, a big noise in Salisbury Cathedral Close, is said not to care for the idea.) Being sent away at eight, he says,



"You have to make the giving easy. It's one of our maxims: you have to have your bucket out in the right place": Nicholas Hinton on the basics of charity

was "an unhappy-making process. So I don't recall that part of my childhood as a particularly blissful experience. My daughter was eight recently, and there is simply no way that we could ever send her away." Once over that misery, though, he flourished. As chief chorister, he would lead the flock of choristers between the organist's house and the school, during which a rule of silence was imposed. The story goes that one Saturday, the silence was broken by chattering. Young Hinton stopped the party, formed them up afresh and led them all the way back to start their march over again.

At Marlborough College he was "the world's worst member of the Corps". So they created a Gardening Corps for him and others like him. "On every front, the scheme of gardening for the elderly pensioners of Marlborough produced a mutual agenda of benefits. They liked us coming to help them, and we enjoyed their teas." He also spent an Easter holiday working in an approved school at Hook, Dorset: a first encounter, after the sheltered vicarage childhood, with disadvantaged boys, and a pointer to his later career interests: he is a former director of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (Nacro).

He went to Selwyn College, Cambridge, on a music scholarship and spent most of his time singing and running the college music society. He also read law, but was less diverted by tort and contract law than by much more enthralling criminology. So when he went down he chose to work for four years at Northorpe Hall in Yorkshire, a pioneering centre for dealing with young offenders in non-custodial ways.

At one point he very much wanted to go into Parliament and stood for the Social Democratic Party at Somerton and Frome in Somerset in 1983. "It was a good

thing to do. Before that, I had a top-down perspective on life: I had been director, or assistant director, of three organisations (Northorpe Hall Trust, Nacro, and the National Council for Voluntary Organisations). Suddenly I was on the ground. You talk endlessly to people about everything under the sun."

He would have made an efficient, personable MP, but he is fulfilling a far more useful role. Who will next require rescue from death by starvation? Seven years in this job have given him perspective and vision. The SCF spent nothing on the needs of the Kurds in the

**The United Nations has achieved a very good peace-keeping role, but it is often after the conflict. The public sees a great dithering on the part of the UN about whose responsibility it is to embark on peacemaking**

year to August 1991, but £3.5 million went to them in the past year. In Sudan, the previous portion of £4.2 million rose to £24.2 million, reflecting the huge food operation needed to reach the remote western areas. Somalia, which received just £360,000 the previous year, took £3.2 million this financial year.

"Thank God, the other side of that coin is the very generous response of governments," Mr Hinton says. "Denmark, Norway, Sweden, America, Japan, Canada, Australia, New Zealand... all choose to channel funds through us. I take great pride in what the SCF continues to do against all the odds."

His chief anxiety is when the security position means having to have armed guards, when it could become irresponsible to allow staff

to go into the field. And knowing where to go, before things get impossible to deal with. While working on the reconstruction of Bangladesh, beset by regular floods, the SCF also embarked on helping refugees from Burma, "the next trouble spot in the world". Next month he will fly to Athens, to check on the Greek SCF's preparedness in case the refugees from the former Yugoslavia travel that far south, "which, alas, they probably will".

Peace can break out, he says, even in the most hopeless situations. This week, after Mozambique's 18 years of savage civil war, we have seen President Chissano and Afonso Dhlakama, head of *Renamo*, the anti-government force in that country, signing an agreement in Rome to cease hostilities on October 1. Somalia, where clan wars rage, is more complicated, but not until peace-making begins can any reconstruction begin.

Last year Mr Hinton was one of those invited to a conference on international relations in Atlanta, Georgia, by former President Jimmy Carter. The conference concluded that disasters and their aftermath need to be dealt with in their totality, without hesitation and internecine strife over whose responsibility or mandate is appropriate. The answer, Mr Hinton says, is some new supra-national body. "We may well come up with something that is very like the UN. But we have to address the requirements of the world as it is now."

The UN has achieved a very good peace-keeping role, but it is often after the conflict. Now, with the withdrawal of the domination of the superpowers, the chief instigators of peacemaking, we need to make sure we have a new role. The general public sees a great dithering on the part of the UN about whose responsibility it is to embark on peacemaking.

"We saw the chaos most clearly

last year at the time of the Kurdish problem. People could see huge helicopters overhead and confusion below. Who was in charge of disaster relief, food, refugees, children, transport? Getting that act together was very difficult."

The SCF presented its suggestions to the G7 conference, which led to a UN resolution in December calling for the creation of a department of humanitarian affairs, to co-ordinate all such requirements. "It was a step, but more action is needed, because, with the best will in the world, to get the long-standing specialist agencies of the UN to give up some of their turf in the name of co-ordination is not easy."

"And the UN is only as good as the commitment governments have to it. Ironically the country that is most tardy in supporting the UN is the United States. The security council reflects the world as it once was. It is hard today to justify continuing to exclude Japan and Germany, the second and third richest countries in the world."

From the start, Miss Jebb declared that the Save the Children Fund must not just raise money, but also ensure that it had the maximum influence over those with care of children.

A good example is the SCF's drawing up ground rules of what to do with children who land in refugee camps anywhere. "In these camps, kids may not even have a number, let alone a name," Mr Hinton says. So they encouraged the then UN High Commissioner for Refugees to set up guidelines specifying that children in camps should be registered, given as much health care as possible, and have some education provided. This was in 1988. But were they implemented in the field? "Surprise," Mr Hinton says ironically. "Very little attention was paid to them." Now there is someone whose sole job is to travel round refugee camps to check on whether the guidelines have been put in force.

Meanwhile, hand-wringing over the vast numbers of children is pointless: the SCF is committed to feeding and protecting all living children.

At the same time, family plan-

ning programmes are an essential part of SCF health care programmes, with a view to educating the third world into realising that it is better to have three or four three or four children, all of whom live.

Britons remain "remarkably responsive", as the figures testify. Even the laziest of us contributes with Christmas mail ordering from the SCF catalogue, which brings in about £5 million — "A very significant contribution" — or by skipping lunch once a year. The money goes straight into the field, helping to pay for those armed lorryloads of grain, the basic nutritional rations of rice porridge, dried skimmed milk, high-protein biscuits or vitamin-rich gruels. "You have to make the giving easy. It's one of our maxims: you have to have your bucket out in the right place."

"The SCF is an endless circle: you can't get money and government support unless you have a profile that people understand. You can't get a profile unless you can communicate about the work you are doing on the ground. You can't raise the money to do the work on the ground unless you have a profile. My job is to ensure that the circle is continuous."

A continuous circle it is. Miss Jebb might well have turned in her grave to know that the children of the Balkans are displaced and destitute again today, 74 years after she first revealed their plight to the world. Indeed, it is only by chance that the good lady, who died at 52 of exhaustion after the emotional and physical stress of her work, is still in her grave at all. Anyone buried in the cation of Geneva has to pay (or have paid on their behalf) a rent for the ground-space. When the rent on her grave last fell due, in 1990, there was no longer an International Union of Child Welfare to pay it, so she was dug up and placed elsewhere. A Spaniard who made regular pilgrimages to her grave hunted high and low. He alerted the SCF, which at once negotiated with the Swiss to rededicate her grave last year. "We had a very nice ceremony," Mr Hinton says, "with children from all over the world."

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Galleries: John Russell Taylor offers a second preview of visual art at the Edinburgh Festival

# Going Dutch appeals to the Scots

England's obsession with "heritage" often seems masochistic and morbid, a wilful down-grading of the present in relation to some fancied view of a past golden age. In Scotland, heritage has a different flavour: it is an examination of the past in ways scarcely attempted before, in order to see useful continuities with the present. In art, this involves the revaluation of individual Scottish artists in the context of a hitherto little-considered, specifically Scottish line of development.

That is where the National Gallery of Scotland's major contribution to this year's Edinburgh Festival comes in. Dutch Art and Scotland: A Reflection of Taste, is as much about the taste as about the art. Connections between Scotland and the Netherlands have often bypassed England altogether, and the intense Scottish taste for Dutch art has normally been similarly independent of southern models. Indeed, the Scottish taste frequently ran well ahead of English nobles who looked more to Italy, the classics and the fruits of the Grand Tour.

As the show demonstrates, Scotland has in its time played host to many important works of Dutch art. Distressingly, it has not always been able to hang onto them: many gems have been borrowed back for the occasion from American museums, from the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam and even, more worryingly still, from the National Galleries in London and Dublin. However, this enables the show's organisers to piece together convincingly the evolving Scottish taste that first brought these works into the country.

There is a tendency to suggest that Dutch art appealed more to the dour, puritanical side of the Scots, and that they were hesitant about responding to the pagan and papist splendours of the Mediterranean. Examination of the works, which are hung more or less in chronological order of acquisition, does not quite bear this out. What is sought often seems to be the magical and atmospheric the elegiac light which inexplicably suffuses Cyp's lovely *Riding Lesson* (curious that the live human beings are perfectly convincing and the stamens strangely awkward in execution), or the oddly elegant poses and dress of the group listening to *St John Preaching* in Abraham Bloemaert's romantic, mysterious painting.

## EDINBURGH FESTIVAL



A penchant for the Italianised Hollanders, Bartholomeus Breenbergh and Adam Pynacker, is also noticeable. Hendrick Ten Oever's *Canal Landscape with Figures* is one of the few depictions of secular contemporary nudes (a party of mixed bathers at sunset) in all of classic Dutch art. Even with the twin poles of Rembrandt and Vermeer, it is the romantic chiaroscuro side of Rembrandt that is preferred, and the atypical early Vermeer of *Christ in the House of Martha and Mary*, the kind that inspired Van Meegeren's most notorious forgeries.

Elsewhere, various gloomy types of Scottish romanticism are in full flower. The neglected Scottish classic to be resuscitated this year by the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art is James Pryde (1866-1941). Pryde is generally remembered as the other half of the Beggarstaff Brothers team of turn-of-the-century poster designers; his partner was actually his brother-in-law William Nicholson.

He has, as one might expect, certain points of contact with Nicholson even in his own independent work as a painter. But Nicholson developed differently, towards the classic poise of his gleaming still lifes, while Pryde remained dark, brooding and theatrical. Some painters are well served by being seen in profusion; Pryde is not one. He has a relatively small repertoire of effects, which he does to death. He is fascinated by a sort of vertical gigantism, so that his human figures are often left scrambling like insects in the shadow of giant arches, colossal doorways, windows that must be two storeys high and (particularly) the very strange beds, towering with phantasies and draperies, that proliferate in his later paintings.

He must have been a great influence on Lovat Fraser, who went on the whole for the prettier side, and later on Mervyn Peake, who concentrated on the grotesque. As it is, a lot of Pryde's paintings look like designs for odd corners of Gormenghast.

One surprise of the show is how



Magical and atmospheric: *Philosopher and Pupils* by Willem Van der Vliet (property of the National Trust for Scotland) in Edinburgh

large many of Pryde's paintings are: this is something not guessed from reproduction. Up to now Pryde has seldom been thought of as a notably Scottish artist, though born and trained in Edinburgh. But an unexpected number of his major works are in Scottish collections, so there must be something special there.

J. Craig Annan, who shares the modern gallery's attentions this year, was during his early years internationally famous as a photographer. But recently he has been remembered mainly in Scotland. He was the great master of photography, a process whereby the photographic image was transferred to a metal plate that could then be strengthened or modified by hand-engraving. Appropriately enough,

his best work seems close in effect to the great etching and engraving revival of the 1900s: the closest parallels for his vision are to be found in Scottish etchers such as D.Y. Cameron.

There has been argument about how pure his art is, considered simply as photography. But today, with constantly increasing interest in the manipulation and reapplication of photographic images, a degree of ambiguity in this area is not only tolerated, but actually embraced.

At the Talbot Rice Gallery of Edinburgh University another Scottish artist specialising in mixtures of media, Will Maclean, is given his first substantial retrospective. In a sense, his subject-matter is as circumscribed as that of James Pryde: he is obsessed with the sea, bringer of life through fishing, bringer of death by drowning, and with a typically Scottish sense of dark destiny and dark gods to be propitiated.

Many of his works, which partake of sculpture and of painting, with strong elements of assemblage, seem to be objects of worship or at least of ritual. They could, without taking too much liberty, be seen as totems of the nameless ones. What brings all his heterogeneous materials to consistency is his powerful and highly personal sense of colour, usually dark, and texture, usually rubbed to hardwon smoothness, as though passed through many hands. What keeps it from being monotonous is the endless

variety of invention: seldom can the forms of fish, birds and men have gone through so many and such extraordinary metamorphoses.

● Dutch Art and Scotland, National Gallery of Scotland, The Mound, until October 18. Sponsored by Scottish Equitable. Adm £3, concs £1.50.

● James Pryde/J. Craig Annan, Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Belford Road, until October 11. Admission to Pryde £2.50, concessions £1.25. Admission to Annan £1.50, concessions £1. Joint admission £3, concessions £1.50.

All National Galleries shows: enquiries 031-556 8921. Open Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm; during Festival Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 11am-6pm. Combined tickets for all, £8.

● The Art of Will Maclean, Talbot Rice Gallery, University of Edinburgh, Old College, South Bridge (031-650 2211), Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, until Sept 26.

## ARTS BRIEF

## Blue moon?

A LATE addition to the Edinburgh Film Festival brings Roman Polanski's new film to Britain five weeks earlier than expected. *Bitter Moon*, which Polanski has directed, produced and co-written, and starring Peter Coyote, will receive its world premiere on August 27 at Edinburgh's Filmhouse's 1, before being released generally in Britain on October 2. The story concerns wife-swapping aboard a luxury cruise liner — or, as the film's publicists delicately put it, "mutual discovery, sexual experimentation, perversion, seduction".

**Collaboration**  
THE National Library of Scotland has acquired a series of papers demonstrating the links between two leading figures on the Scottish cultural scene — the composer Ronald Stevenson and the late poet Hugh MacDiarmid. Stevenson, whose Violin Concerto received its first performance recently, forged close ties within the literary and political circle of MacDiarmid, whose centenary is being celebrated this year.

The papers include settings by Stevenson of some of MacDiarmid's best-known poems; there are also 50 letters from the poet to the composer, written between 1957 and 1968. The papers will be added to the library archives on both artists at the National Library of Scotland.

**Last chance...**  
THIS is *Romeo and Juliet*'s year, with almost every ballet company in Britain offering its own production of Prokofiev's romantic tragedy. English National Ballet weighs in with Frederick Ashton's rarely seen version, a formal and restrained treatment that delights in the detail of characterisation rather than the sweep of passions driving MacMillan's production for Covent Garden. Tomorrow's final performance features one of the finest partnerships seen in British ballet in recent years: Trinidad Seviliano and Patrick Armand, former ENB stars now with the Boston Ballet. Catch their guest appearance at the Festival Hall (071-928 8800).

## RECORDS: ROCK

## Move sideways or back to maintain the pole position

Not a group renowned for their sensitivity or soul, INXS have peddled a rugged brand of Aussie dancefloor rock for as long as most people care to remember. But they have taken a welcome step sideways with their chart-topping album *Welcome To Wherever You Are*. It is a less stringently contrived collection of songs than in the past, allowing a thoughtful side of their musical personality, hitherto unsuspected, to emerge.

Hunky vocalist Michael Hutchence, usually a bit of a yelper, has properly applied himself to singing the melodies of songs like "Baby Don't Cry" with its insanely catchy chorus, and "Beautiful Girl" where he trades phrases with a spine-tingling piano motif delicately sketched out in child-like, one-finger steps.

Old-fashioned funk rhythms, throbbing Sixties soul grooves and (on "Taste It") an anediluvian drum sound lead the album as "authentic" feel and generate a seductive warmth that has long been missing from INXS's work. If only other long-established acts could achieve such a refreshing overhaul of their modus operandi, but most are prevented from doing so if not by lack of imagination, then by fear of a debilitating loss of identity.

David Bowie has been

bolder in this regard than most, but his admirable attempt to brutalise his music by submerging himself in the ranks of Tin Machine has been greeted in some quarters with knowing looks of derision. It seems a generation of fans will never forgive him for discarding the elaborate series of masks which so dazzled and intrigued them in the Seventies.

Recorded at concerts in America and Japan, Tin Machine's *Gy Vey, Baby* is a premature live set, given that all but one of the eight songs are taken from the band's two studio albums. The sole "new" offering is a souped-up version of Bryan Ferry's "If There Is Something", which stands up surprisingly well to the nuclear-burn guitar tones of Reeves Gabrels and the howling drum attack of Hunt Sales.

It is these two who dominate the album and, at times, their appetite for extended, free-fall improvisations leaves Bowie rather sitting on the sidelines. From the menacingly neurotic "I Can't Read" to the 12-minute blitz of "Heaven's In Here", it is a noisy, vulgar and thoroughly invigorating tour de force. More power to Bowie's elbow for sticking to his guns.

DAVID SINCLAIR



David Bowie: has submerged himself in Tin Machine

The charge that Schumann's symphonies are scored ineptly and opaquely still crops up. Even the Radio 3 trailer for Tuesday's Prom offered us Mahler's slumped-down version of the First Symphony in B flat. Retouching is not necessary, provided the conductor has an acute enough ear to effect the necessary clarification.

In Ludar Zagrosk's realisation of the "Spring" Symphony, played by the BBC Symphony Orchestra as written, so far as one could tell, there was no excessive or cloying doubling. His textures were light, airy and translucent, with a little string sound supporting the pellucid woodwind and underpinned by crisp brass.

His speedy tempi were exactly right for the exhilaration

of *Spring's Awakening* (the composer's title for the first movement), where even the less-extroverted passages had a vital energy. In the finale, Zagrosk sacrificed grandeur for freshness, but it was all of a piece with a delightfully sparkling account of the work.

Mahler's own imaginative orchestration was heard in the same concert in 12 of his settings from *Des Knaben Wunderhorn*. Zagrosk conjured the tense and ominous atmosphere of "The Drummer Boy" perfectly, following with a complete contrast in mood, the warm, homely glow

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THE late-night Prom on Wednesday brought the excellent Australian Chamber Orchestra with the UK premiere of Peter Sculthorpe's *Lament for Strings*. Sculthorpe's music has an identifiably Australian voice, evoking the vast open spaces of the outback in a way that is most attractive to the harassed modern city dweller. It begins with spare solos for cello and violin, but moves towards a more neo-Romantic mode of expression, beseeching and melancholy.

Under Richard Hickox's direction, the ACO gave a strongly characterised reading

of Mozart's Symphony No 40 in G minor. The strings provided a lively, well-articulated texture, through which emerged beautifully shaped singing lines on oboe or bassoon. Their animated phrasing and taut rhythms generated considerable momentum in the fast movements, while Hickox's emphasis on textural variety — in particular, elements of dialogue — in the Andante provided much to the hold the attention there, too. Steven Lasteris was the wonderfully eloquent soloist in Haydn's Cello Concerto in C major.

IN THE main concert of the evening the talented Norwegian pianist Leif Ove Andnes played the concerto by Britten with the BBC Philharmonic under the baton of Edward Downes. They convincingly caught the ambivalent edge of the work, especially in the elusive, vaguely sinister Waltz, while the introspective quality Andnes brought to the Impromptu was as impressive as his virtuoso playing in the outer movements.

Even more ambivalent is Shostakovich's last symphony, his 15th, in which he quotes Rossini, Wagner and others to jocular, yet unsettling effect. Downes offered a reading that gave equal attention to incidental detail and the overall shape of the work.

BARRY MILLINGTON

## TELEVISION REVIEW

## Feeling peaky? Get high with this

As someone in whom the first symptoms of vertigo can be induced by standing on a chair, my admiration for a man who can perch on a precipice at 8,000 feet changing from boots into tennis shoes, while amiably describing his reasons for doing so, is clouded only by a slight feeling of nausea. I may need to lie down after each episode of *The Climbers* (BBC 2), but the series promises to be worth the sacrifice.

The six half-hour programmes explore the history of mountaineering and began last night with Chris Bonington and two colleagues climbing the Grepon, an Alpine peak of more than 10,000 feet, first conquered 100 years ago by Alfred Mummery.

Bonington's team donned tweeds, woollen stockings and velvet hats to follow in Mummery's hand-holds. It was an excruciating grimace and the carbon-copying was not taken to extremes: they used nylon ropes whereas Mummery had Alpine hemp. Quite why Mummery changed into tennis shoes for the last lap was not really explained, though one assumes that the crack he had to climb was too narrow for boots. I would have long since changed into a helicopter.

Mummery was a remarkable Victorian, the son of a wealthy Kent trader. Thus sponsored, he went off to indulge his passion. Luckily, he possessed intelligence and vision. Mountaineering tech-

niques are the subject of considerable debate, a debate that Mummery focused. He was among the first to question the received wisdom of the time, which was that climbing mountains other than for scientific purposes was not proper mountaineering at all. He blazed a vertical trail.

Nor did Mummery believe that being first up a mountain was what mattered. To follow guides was one thing, but to conquer a peak by its hardest route was the purest challenge, the true test: it gave the mountain a chance. Mummery opened up the Alps and other ranges to mountaineering as we now know it and his restless search for bigger challenges took him eventually to the Himalayas. He was lost there in August 1895, last seen trudging across a glacier.

He left behind a single book on the subject of climbing, which the programme quoted in voice-overs that were neatly inter-cut with Bonington's views, about Mummery and the Grepon. Clearly both are much admired by the present generation, some of whom, as Bonington said, are superstars with incomes to match. I wonder who he meant?

I am still not clear why they do it, unless "because it's there" is all the reason required. The views must be stunning and one can understand the sense of achievement, but the thought of the journey back down is enough to deter me. But someone has

to do it, otherwise television would want for spectacular footage.

Indeed, the camera teams are the heroes of modern mountaineering. Requests for a re-take cannot be popular and one wonders what Mummery would have made of someone asking if he could climb that bit again.

To Mummery, mountain-

eering was a pure form of travel. Perhaps it is to Bonington. An hour after *The Climbers* last night came *The Travel Show*: Castle Howard, Blenheim Palace and Orlando, Florida. I prefer my nausea induced by Mummery and Bonington: an altogether higher form.

PETER BARNARD

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## PROMS: ALBERT HALL/RADIO 3

## Schumann with a spring in his step

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Can the private sector make maternity a terrific experience for the majority? Ann Kent reports



Water baby: Lisa Bartlett chose to have her daughter Cassie in the birthing pool of the Bournemouth maternity unit which is run by midwives

## Birth of an enterprise

Jane Smith stands at the open window, breathing deeply. Her hair is still wet from the birthing pool and she can feel the sun on her face. Behind her is the handsomely furnished room where her husband and midwife are quietly watching. "Could you turn up the music," she asks. This is her favourite part of the "Pastoral" symphony.

The midwife, who has cared for her for the past six months, gently rubs her back during her contractions. Mrs Smith is finding it hard to stand now, so the midwife and Mr Smith gently help her get down on to the floor which has been spread on the floor.

It is time for a change of music. Mr Smith selects the last movement of the "Choral" symphony. Mrs Smith gets down on all fours, one of the positions she has discussed over the past few months and the only one which is bearable just now. Her husband gently encourages her as, just as she planned, their daughter is born, to the triumphant sounds of the "Ode to Joy".

Afterwards mother, father and baby are taken to their room. The furnishings are soft, the armchairs are deep, and the bedding matches the colour scheme. Naturally Mrs Smith has a TV and an en suite bathroom, and another bed has been wheeled in so her husband can share her three day stay.

This is the type of birth experience, at present imaginary, that Alan Green, a businessman, plans to offer to Manchester women before the end of the year. He believes that they will be willing to pay £2,000 for antenatal and postnatal care from the same pair of midwives, and the chance to give birth exactly as they wish. Unless complications develop, the deliveries will be entirely supervised by midwives.

Dr Green is the managing director of TWI (UK) Ltd., a surgical appliance manufacturer. He is to lease a building in Manchester and turn it into a six bedroom maternity unit. If the experiment is a success he plans to open a chain of similar units, to be known as The First Maternity Centres.

Dr Green's market research, carried out last year among 250 women who had recently given birth, revealed a wish to see the same midwife throughout pregnancy, and a desire for more choice over what happens during the birth. The National Childbirth Trust

(NCT) also surveyed new mothers and found that a quarter of the 2,000 women questioned had seen more than 20 health professionals during their pregnancies and labour.

Dr Green, whose qualification is in environmental science not medicine, says that he has the Commons health committee on his side. Earlier this year the committee's enquiry into maternity services reported that hospitals were not the best places for providing care for healthy pregnant women. It suggested that women should be able to choose where they gave birth, and that this choice should include small midwife-run maternity units.

Predictably the report was welcomed by the Royal College of Midwives, and opposed by the Royal College of Obstetricians which stated: "The best place for delivery is where the full range of emergency services is immediately accessible and these are currently only available in district hospitals."

A few days later the government announced its response: the appointment of another expert committee to review policy on care during childbirth. The time lag before any changes can occur in the NHS gives Dr Green and others working in the private sector plenty of time to provide alternatives for those who can afford them.

The development dismisses Mary Newburn, of the NCT. She says: "Maternity care in the NHS has got better because of the campaigning efforts of articulate women who have high ideals. I should be very sorry if those women simply opted out."

However, this year midwives in Bournemouth have proved it is not necessary to opt out to achieve the kind of low technology birth Ms Newburn is convinced many women want. Despite fierce opposition from their local health authority and some consultant obstetricians, the midwives are now running their own maternity unit at the Royal Bournemouth General Hospital.

Pregnant women are described as clients, rather than patients. They can

bring their own music into the delivery room, where they can give birth in any position they choose with friends or family members present. Bean bags, mattresses on the floor, and special birthing beds and birthing chairs are available, but the pool is proving particularly popular.

"It is wonderful to see women who were in great pain from their contractions floating in the pool, completely relaxed," Penelope Samuel, one of the unit's midwifery sisters, says. Women who have just delivered can recover in a single room but most opt for the company of other women in two and four bedded rooms.

The Bournemouth midwives are not able to deliver all the women who ask for their care. Mothers are screened, as they will be in Dr Green's unit, to identify the higher risk women who need consultant care. In Bournemouth, this means that first time mothers over 35 will be referred to the care of the consultant unit at Poole, as will all mothers over 38, anyone having a fifth or subsequent pregnancy, those who have encountered previous obstetric or gynaecological problems, and women with a pre-existing medical problem. The unit has a special corridor linking it to the main hospital's operating theatre, so emergency caesarean operations pose no difficulties. If the baby develops severe problems, a "flying squad" of paediatricians is called out from Poole — about nine miles away.

Should unforeseen problems develop in Dr Green's unit, he plans to transfer the labouring woman by ambulance to the nearest obstetric unit. Women who deliver at Bournemouth are booked under the care of consultant obstetrician Jeremy Evans, who verifies their low risk status and then leaves the midwives the task of delivering the babies. Mr Evans says that many of his obstetric colleagues are still hostile to the idea of midwife-run units, "although we are trying to heal the wounds and find some common ground."

### Many doctors are still hostile to the idea of midwife-run units

"This is a way of focusing the obstetricians on the high risk women who need their services. In the big units at the moment, you can't always give the women who need special care all the time they deserve, because you are dealing with the low risk cases as well."

Safety comparisons between large and small units are hard to make because larger units deal with more complicated births, which naturally carry a high risk of going wrong. Alison Macfarlane, a statistician with the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit in Oxford, explains: "We can't say it is safer to give birth in one type of unit or another. But the statistics do tell us that it is safe for selected women to give birth in small units."

Many small maternity units, however, have been closed in the interests of economy. In 1976, about 45,000 women in England and Wales gave birth in hospitals classified as having no consultant obstetric units. Last year fewer than 10,000 women made use of these smaller units out of a total of about 700,000 who gave birth.

Lisa Bartlett, 26, chose the Bournemouth unit because she wanted to give birth underwater. Mrs Bartlett, whose daughter Cassie Denise was born last week, said: "I was in a lot of pain before I went into the water, but it wasn't half as bad once I was in the pool. I stayed in the unit for five days, and I thought it was more like a hotel than a hospital. People came round with tea and coffee all day, and the food was really good."

However, the women who are most likely to appreciate the Bournemouth facilities are those who have previously given birth in busy labour wards. Susanne Nichol, 31, who also gave birth in the Bournemouth unit last week, explained the difference. She said: "When my first daughter, Kirsty, was born two years ago, everyone seemed to be in such a hurry. The atmosphere is quite different in the Bournemouth unit. The staff are like a big family."

Mrs Nichol had also hoped for a water birth. But childbirth seldom follows the script — or the musical score chosen by the mother. When she arrived at the hospital, the midwife found on examination that her cervix was fully dilated. After two more contractions Kellie was born on the hospital bed.

## Stung into finding a remedy

THE butterflies fluttering over the boudleas recently have recalled the summers before agrochemists dominated farming. But those who hoped that the cabbage whites eating their neighbours' vegetables were harbingers suggesting a return to the idyllic countryside of the days of the novel *The Good-Byes* will be disappointed. These butterflies have been blown across the North Sea and Channel accompanied, it appears, by wasps, bees, hornets and other stinging insects. In Britain the warm weather over the past few years has also allowed the occasional foreign spider, scorpion and other unpleasant beastie, which have hitched a lift on imported goods, to survive.

When confronted by bees or wasps, laymen try to remember whether the sting is alkaline or acid, but this piece of folklore has now even been dropped from standard first aid guides, and doctors for the past 30 years have been content to lump bees, wasps, hornets and bumble bees together as venomous hymenoptera, and have used the same remedies for them all.

The effect of a sting depends on whether the patient has been sensitised by an earlier one. A sting to a patient who has not been sensitised — and contrary to popular belief sensitivity occurs more readily after a wasp sting than a bee sting — will produce a red painful swelling, bad enough to make a child howl throughout a picnic but not dangerous unless it is in the mouth and can thereby obstruct the airway.

On the other hand, for the one or two hundred people in Britain who are allergic to bee or wasp stings it is a serious emergency. In these cases the sting can be rapidly followed by flushing, tingling skin, an urticarial (nettle-type) rash, dizziness, racing heart, restlessness, vomiting, diarrhoea, swollen mouth and face.

### MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttard

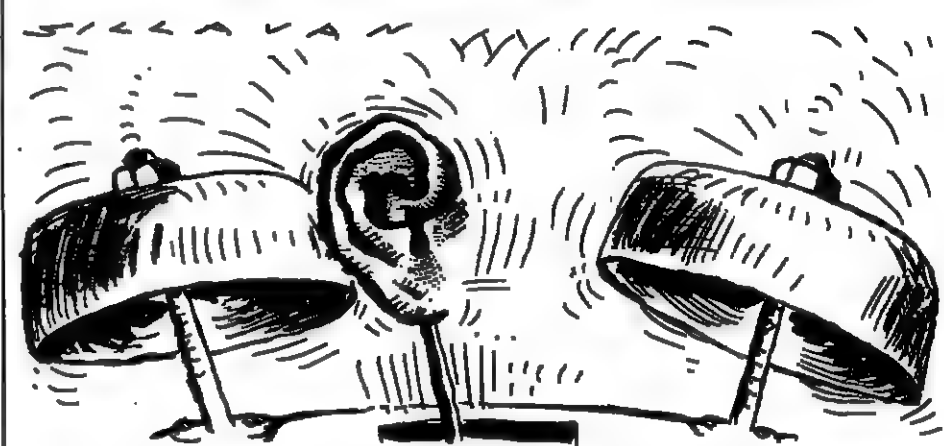
followed sometimes by collapse and, in four or five instances each year, death. The patient who suffers from bee or wasp sensitivity should always wear a bracelet or necklace warning of the problem. When stung they need an immediate subcutaneous injection of one in a thousand adrenaline as well as intravenous antihistamines. The value of intravenous hydrocortisone is disputed.

In cases where the victim has not been sensitised by previous stings, the sting, if from a bee, must be removed: it should be scraped off with a fingernail or table knife rather than squeezed out, as squeezing can empty more venom into the patient; wasps don't leave their sting behind. Useful first aid measures are the application of ice, and aspirin and antihistamine by mouth. The application of antihistamine cream is of questionable value but steroid creams, or in severe cases steroids by mouth or injection, are helpful.

Those intent on raiding the kitchen for remedies should search for domestic meat tenderiser rather than ammonia or the old-fashioned "blue bags", used in the past to whiten the wash and recommended for stings. Meat tenderiser contains the enzyme papain which is used by cooks to break down muscle fibre in meat. But when diluted one in five, it is reputed to remove the pain of a sting instantaneously.

Virtually all spiders are venomous but in Britain we are lucky that the venom-packed fangs of home-bred spiders are too short and too feeble to penetrate human skin: foreign ones, possibly brought in on fruit, have fangs which are longer and tougher: in the unlikely event of being bitten by one, the limb should be tightly crepe bandaged onto a splint and the patient taken to hospital.

### Sounds like a widespread problem



THIS week it was reported that pop music was played so loudly at a concert in Finsbury Park, north London, that tower blocks swayed and plaster cracked. Meanwhile, shooting parties have been crouching in their butts waiting to welcome the first of the season's grouse. Workers in factories, shipyards and garages face similar noise levels daily; but whether the battering the inner ear takes is a result of the pursuit of pleasure or from earning a living, hearing loss is the consequence.

The susceptibility of the human ear to noise varies

enormously but, for the most susceptible, hearing loss may start occurring if the level rises above 85 decibels. Persistent noise is more damaging than short-term exposure to a very loud noise. Damage is caused to the organ of Corti, the sensitive hairy cells that translate sound vibrations to nerve impulses which are then transmitted to the brain for interpretation. Excessive noise causes the cells to collapse and later degenerate. Damage by short-term exposure to loud noise will improve over a week or two but if it persists beyond this time it becomes permanent. Inner ear deafness is

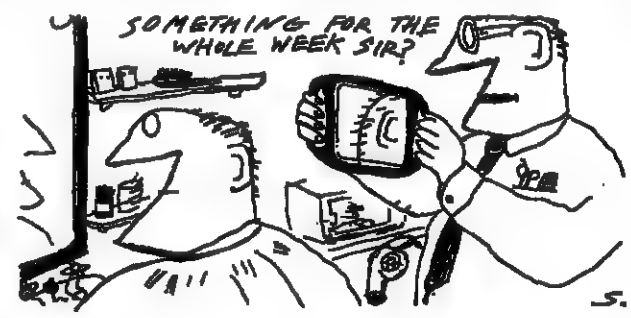
usually accompanied by tinnitus, a high-pitched ringing.

The good news, whether for those on the grouse moors or the factory floor, is that this week, researchers at Keele University have reported that guinea pigs with inner ear deafness were capable of recovering after months, not just weeks. The chase is now on to find out what a guinea pig does not, but a shooting man does not, that allows ears to recover in this way. It is the hope, perhaps rather than the belief, that when this has been isolated, treatment other than a hearing aid will be possible for those with inner ear deafness.

### Condom conundrum

AS THIS week is condom week, every effort is being made to encourage their use in an attempt to reduce the spread of sexually transmitted diseases. The message has already been broadcast so widely, even if its instructions are not always followed, that misunderstandings are becoming increasingly frequent.

Wearing a condom provides safer, but not safe sex. Condoms are not a guaranteed method of preventing the spread of syphilis, gonorrhoea, NSU, herpes or warts. Every week I see patients who find it hard to accept that, despite their all too obvious signs and symptoms, they are suffering from a sexually transmitted disease. "That's just not possible doctor, I always wear a condom," they say in an aggrieved voice. Even the most limited knowledge of



anatomy and common sexual practices should make it obvious that condoms, while useful, are not a panacea. Careful choice of partners is still necessary. Wearing a condom would not for instance allow a later-day Don Juan to operate with complete impunity.

The greater use of condoms, and gloves, made from latex has demonstrated that latex sensitivity is more common than supposed. In the United States, where doctors have been aware of the problem for a longer time, 7 per cent of health care workers are said to be sensitive to latex gloves.

Patients who are unaware of their sensitivity, or do not wear a bracelet identifying it, could, if operated on by a surgeon wearing such gloves, suffer anaphylactic shock, and possibly death, which could be either unexplained or wrongly attributed to anaesthetics. One patient in America is known recently to have died from the use of a latex-tipped catheter.

Fortunately for the sexually active, and for the organisers of condom week, condoms are also available made out of non-latex materials for those with this allergy.

Operations with less pain and fuss are possible, so why are they so rare?

## Open the door on keyhole surgery

A surgical technique that gives patients less pain and trauma, as well as less time in hospital, would seem to be a boon to both patient and hospital. So why is keyhole surgery not available to all in the UK?

Minimally Invasive Therapy (MIT) appears to lessen the trauma surrounding surgery. Instead of making long incisions and opening up the patient, the surgeon views the operation site through an endoscope passed into the body through a small hole. The high-technology instruments are passed through another small hole, and there is no need to cut through muscle or nerve fibres.

In the United States, MIT is now being used for major procedures such as bowel resection, kidney removal and hysterectomy. In the UK, the vast majority of patients still have to endure being cut open

and having several weeks off work, even for quite simple operations. The UK has the technology, so why is it not more generally available?

John Wickham, a consultant urologist and a pioneer of MIT in the UK, believes there are several reasons. One is that "we still have far too many surgeons who believe that unless you cut a hole big enough to get your head in, you cannot see well enough to perform a proper operation."

Another factor, he says, is that, to perform MIT, surgeons have to learn new skills, and they may be unwilling to consider further training. Mr

Wickham, who founded the Society for Minimally Invasive Therapy, and now edits its journal, says that large-scale introduction of MIT would require a reconsideration of almost every aspect of patient care and treatment.

He says: "Before MIT the average length of stay in hospital for any surgical procedure, other than the most minor, was ten days. But with these new instruments, often you do not even need anaesthetic and you can be home the following day. So we simply do not need the hotel aspect of hospitals."

There is only one purpose-

built MIT unit in the UK, at the London Clinic, a private hospital in the West End of London. However, setting up a unit is not prohibitively expensive, Mr Wickham believes. "You could set up a unit suitable for most things for £1 million at most," he says.


Does the NHS patient have the right to demand or request MIT? A health department spokeswoman says GPs can refer patients to any surgeon, but they might prefer for cost reasons to use local facilities, where MIT may not be available. If MIT is not available in the hospital to which you are referred, the health depart-

ment's advice is that "you are, of course, entitled to change your GP". The department has a working party looking into the setting-up of MIT units. Most, if not all, teaching hospitals will be able to carry out MIT, but none has a whole unit.

In some NHS hospitals, patients are given the choice of conventional surgery or MIT, as I was when undergoing a recent consultation in London for hernia repair. With open surgery, I was told, I would have a three-inch scar and be off work for four to six weeks. If I chose MIT, there would be no scar and I could be back to work within a week.

For me, the choice was as easy enough one to make. Mr Wickham and the other surgeons promoting MIT feel that it should now be available to all NHS patients.

LIZ HODGKINSON



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## Britain might not welcome Bosnian families but German charity begins at home. Libby Purves reports

**'People would want to send them away like unwanted pets after a week'**

way like  
ed pets  
week'

24 hours by trained volunteers. In any case, we only work in conjunction with statutory authorities." She further warns that "the families would be shell-shocked. If they were scattered they might feel isolated."

At the Refugee Council, Ken Ritchie, the deputy director, is

A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a group of people sitting around a table. The image is heavily stylized, with extreme contrast and a grainy texture. Several individuals are visible, including a man on the left and a woman on the right. The table is covered with various items, possibly food or small objects.

**A place of refuge: the Bosnians who have been taken in by the Wiethases ... their host says "We want to help these people, but don't want to give money to some institution"**

failed to get any on-the-record local authority line on the matter, but unofficially found social services departments curiously dismissive of the idea of family hospitality. One manager referred to "sentimental do-goodery which does more harm than good" and to "people who'd want to send them away like unwanted pets after a week". Only Mr Ritchie, at the Refugee Council, cautiously opined that "if there does come a time when Britain decides to take a share of this responsibility, it is possible that a family could provide a supportive sympathetic environment for another

**T**here was one hitch. "Because it was holiday time and the autobahn was crowded, they sent them on the train to Munich and I collected them there. The radio people told me that 250 families had already gone to private homes when I rang. It took one week to find places for 5,000 people, in Bavaria. It really is no problem. I heard in the news that the English government says they don't want the refugees — only countries close should keep them. I think every country in Europe could take ten, 20, 30 thousand. We are very rich and we have

empty space in our houses. I don't want people left in Germany for years, not going home, because this is sad for them. But if they have to be, it is so."

Frau Wietase agreed immediately to her husband's impulse, even though the visit is more than likely to last beyond the birth of her new baby. "When it was very close," says her husband, "I asked again 'Do you really want to?' She said yes. We want to help these people, but I don't want to give money to some institution. I hate all that. You never do know where the money's going to, they could buy arms."

In the background to our telephone call, some high-spirited infantile shrieking suggested social contact between his two-year-old and the visiting children. Is it all working on a personal level? Are the strangers traumatised, as my cautious British commentators had suggested, and in need of 24-hour trained counselling? "Well, of course they have been terrified. They were for 20 days in the cellar of a house. The mother had very bad dreams at first, and the three-year-old is still frightened. But we are nice people, OK? and nice to them, so the situation is fine. They are safe and welcome. The five-year-

old kid now says he would like to stay in Germany because he likes the bananas."

And the "language support" problem? "Huh, they are learning German very fast. They have not much to do, and many hours of the day to learn. It goes well." And the financial relationship? "Maybe they get some social money soon. I don't know. It doesn't matter. Food is no problem. A farmer friend of mine gives me milk and eggs, and I keep animals, too, we have meat. My secretary brings bread for them, and many friends bring money." As for the local employment structure: "Hussain, the father, has already got

permission to work. The brother of my wife has a small company nearby in this village and says he can use this man's work. Really, it is no problem."

Herr Wiethase makes it all sound very easy, very obvious, very like those compassionate dreams in front of the television and very unlike the cautious official line. But then, he comes from a nation which has seen historic examples of the way individuals can throw open their doors to refugees.

"My uncle," he observes, "was a refugee in the war. A family looked after him in England. I like England very much, but I think there is much bullshit now. Ja?"

## The Democrats turn the spotlight on the president's family values

volvement in the collapse of a Denver savings and loan association, the American equivalent of a building society, is already well known. He was reprimanded by the Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS) for engaging in "conflicts of interest", and told, along with ten other directors, to pay back \$50 million (£26 million).

about that, but just as Mark Thatcher's name opened doors in the Middle East, so Jeb Bush's name did in Africa. The fuss was such, however, that Martin Fitzwater, the White House press secretary, issued a statement saying: "The president's children should not be deprived of career opportunities just

consultant with the Harken Energy Corporation to help in the re-election campaign. An article in *The Washington Post* said critics had suggested the company won a chance to drill off Bahrain because of political connections. George W. denied that, and no wrongdoing has been proved.

If members of the Bush family were doctors or gardeners, such allegations would not surface, but because so many of them are international businessmen and consultants, nudging and nods are inevitable.

Even before this campaign, the president constantly cited the wonders of the American family in speeches, so when part of his own family started having marital difficulties, there was a rush of interest. This time, daughter Dorothy was in the spotlight, as she divorced her husband, William Le Blond. He was later arrested for drunken driving and possessing cannabis.

The problem for Mr Bush is that his extended family can bring extensive trouble, and the more he talks about values, the more his relations face scrutiny. Like the Kennedy's, the name can bring trouble all by itself.

Prescott Bush, the president's older brother discovered a Japanese construction company would give him a \$6 million share in a holiday complex and golf course in China in return for allowing his name to be associated with it. He was upfront about the deal: "It doesn't hurt that my brother is President of the United States," he said.

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# Little innovator turns 30

Although the car broke much innovative ground, it made no advance in the fight against rust. The underside and sub-frame were natural rust traps, and the cars often literally disappeared.



The car is pure common sense: a simple box with each wheel stuck uncompromisingly on each corner to make parking a doddle, and to maximise interior space. Today, the car's lines seem angular and squared off. And the chrome that sparkles on wheels, mirrors, grille and lights, where modern cars use

Once on the move, the controls, brakes and clutch are all heavier than in modern cars. The ride is

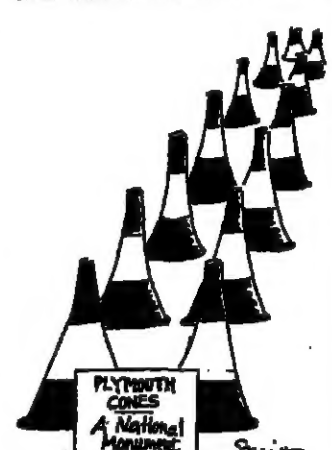
John Bridgen, of the British Motor Industry Heritage Trust, says: "The 1100 series was an oddity in that it was a better car than its current reputation deserves. It was large inside, and the suspension and handling very sophisticated for the time. It was a

●Austin 1100 30th Anniversary Celebrations: Cavalcade of Cars leave the Austin factory at Longbridge, Coventry, at 10am on Sunday, August 16 for a drive to Harton Country Park, near Warwick, for celebrations and car display.

**Fightback**  
VAUXHALL is also using video, this time to help motorists beat the car crime wave that is sweeping the country. *Car Wars - The Motorist Strikes Back*, priced at £3.95 from W H Smith and Vauxhall dealerships, shows how owners can best protect their vehicles.

### **Plymouth's sound**

**MOTORISTS** rounding Plymouth can be forgiven if they feel something sadly missing in their lives. The cones that had blocked



## Easing the paying

HAVING your car serviced without a bill sounds like a fantasy. But one-off service charges can be avoided with a new finance scheme from the Imco Group. Coverplan allows drivers to pay monthly for up to three years' routine servicing costs. Motorists pay according to estimated annual mileage and are billed by direct debit.

Race and rally versions of the Escort RS are to spearhead Ford's sporting aspirations. A limited production run of 5,000 this year means that Ford is unlikely to have trouble selling the vehicles, whatever the insurance worries.

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Stoddart, I E; Thompson, C I; Turner

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CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 **The Channel 4 Daily** (6726212)
- 9.25 **Gosh! Children's entertainment** (r) (s) (7159153)
- 9.55 **Get Smart**. Don Adams stars as the incompetent secret agent Smokey (9293498)
- 10.00 **Film: On Heavenly Night** (1931, b/w) starring Evelyn Laye in her final role. Debussy plays an Hungarian flower girl who is plucked from obscurity to replace a vulgar cabaret singer. Directed by George Fitzmaurice (7536337)
- 11.50 **Thiefy Gangster**. Animation (r) (6083085)
- 12.00 **Land Of Hope**. Epic Australian drama serial (r) (23882)
- 1.00 **Sesame Street**. Pre-school learning series (r) (32530)
- 2.00 **Love Lucy** (b/w). Vintage American comedy series starring Lucille Ball (6083085)
- 3.00 **Film: The Tickman Mystery** (1954, b/w) starring John Justin and Margaret Leighton. An author commissioned to write the biography of a dead test pilot uncovers intrigue and murder. Directed by Wendy Toye (30249356)
- 4.05 **One Week** (b/w). Buster Keaton stars in this short about the first six days of marriage for a young couple (3025593)
- 4.30 **Countdown**. Richard Whitley with another round of the words and numbers game (s) (714)
- 5.00 **Secret History: Bad Blood**. A repeat of Monday's documentary about the scandal surrounding medical research into untreated syphilis. (Teletext) (9004)
- 6.00 **Blossom**. American comedy series (s) (207)
- 6.30 **Kelloops**. A musical theatre. Stage five — Nottingham to Leeds, a distance of 110 miles (559)
- 7.00 **Channel 4 News** with Dermot Munaghan and Zeinab Badawi. (Teletext) Weather (921801)
- 7.30 **First Reaction** (114513)
- 8.00 **Brookside**. Soap set in a suburban Merseyside close. (Teletext) (s) (6153)
- 8.30 **In With Marv**. Mavis Nicholson visits Amsterdam to look at the 'artistic avanties' artists to the city. (Teletext) (558207)
- 8.55 **Arthur** (b/w). "I'm a clown from New York" (40231474)



**Next stop Rio: Alan Whicker at the Iguaza Falls (9.00pm)**

**9.00 Around Whicker's World:** The Ultimate Package! Alan Whicker concludes his first package tour in which he and his 87 fellow tourists visited 14 countries in 34 days. The private jet leaves Rio de Janeiro for Barbados, but before one of their number is arrested, the plane is secured by the FBI, and the tour is cancelled. A star and a ball on the Waldorf's Starline Tour. (Grade) (9191)

**10.00 News at Ten** with Trevor McDonald and Alistair Stewart. (Grade) Weather (797849) 10.35 LWT News and weather (344337)

**10.00 The Naked Truth** (1957) starring Frank Sinatra, Peter Vink, and Dennis Hopper. A young man, who is a member of an American holidaymaker in Leipzig who becomes a pawn in a bizarre plot to get him to assassinate an enemy agent. Directed by

● **CHOICE:** Channel 4's Friday night season of American thrillers has been uniformly worthwhile, not least for turning up lesser-known treats such as this crisp offering from writer David Goodis. An unpretentious purveyor of pulp fiction, Goodis has had as much to do on the cinema circuit that extends beyond Hollywood. One of his stories was the inspiration for François Truffaut's *Shoot the Piano Man*. No one pretends *The Burglar* is in that class but it is a taut and watchable piece, helped by effective location photography and inventive direction by Paul Wendkos. The cast and melody are all on the inside, as it were, with a few stars who steal a diamond necklace and risk losing it to a bent cop. Jayne Mansfield plays Duryea's girl and the eventual focus of the plot (89/3527)

**12.40am Twilight Zone: Twenty Two.** A tale of the supernatural (25/2647). Ends at 1.05

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## YORKS

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|       |              |
|-------|--------------|
| 10.40 | Brookside    |
| 11.10 | Britain (79) |
|       | Hieng (63)   |

**5.55am Weather**  
**7.00 On Air:** Andrew Lee with music, news, travel, weather and arts headlines, including at 7.40: Poulenc's *Concerto for two pianos*; Prokofiev's *State*; The Love for Three Oranges  
**9.00 Composers of the Week:** Leonard Bernstein's *West Side Story*; Contemporary Composers' *Music in Praise of Shahn*; New York Philharmonic Orchestra under Leonard Bernstein; Elton Carter (A Symphony of three orchestras; New York Philharmonic Orchestra under Pierre Boulez; Schuman (Three Colloquies; New York Philharmonic Orchestra under Leonard Bernstein, with Philip Myers, horn)  
**HTV WALES**  
 As HTV West except: 6.00p Wales at Six 6.30-7.00 TrafficCasts  
**RADIO 3**  
**6.55am** BBC Symphony Orchestra, plays to Chris de Souza about life in the "back row" and "gigs to music" by Telemann, Dürstle, Schumann and Anthony Payne. With Elizabeth Upchurch, piano, Chi Chi Nwanoku, double bass, and John Lennihan, harichord  
**5.00 In Tune:** Michael Ovenson presents a selection of music and previews the weekend's events  
**7.30 Proms 1992:** Live from the Albert Hall, London. The Danish National Radio Chorus and Symphony Orchestra under Dimitri Kiraeniko, its principal guest conductor, with Helle Nielsen, soprano, Anne Gjeving, contralto, Povl

(1) Stereo on FM  
 5.55pm Shipping Forecast 6.00  
 News Briefing, Int 6.03  
 Weather 6.10 Farming Today  
 6.25 Prayer for the Day with  
 the Rev John Ray, MP and  
 6.30pm News, with Sue May Gregory  
 and John Humphrys. Int 6.30,  
 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News  
 8.45-9.00 Weather  
 Thought for the Day 8.45 Love  
 Among the Butterflies: Edited  
 from the diaries of Margaret  
 Lowery by W.J. Caffer 3.00  
 (1) 8.50 Weather, 9.00 News  
 Desert Island Discs: Sue  
 Lowery's gateway to Elizabeth  
 Evans-Coll, director of the  
 Victoria and Albert Museum  
 9.45 The Village, presented by

(901811) 1.30a Gymnast Carlos Arévalo  
 (212057) 1.30a The World of Sport  
 (81269) 1.20pm International Athletics  
 (885091) 1.05a Close

**RADIO 4**

4.05 Kaledoscope reviews the  
 John Heartfield exhibition at  
 the Barbican and an exhibition  
 of work by graphic artist  
 William Hayler, listens to  
 Morrissey's new album, Your  
 Arsenal, reports on art and  
 crafts emporium run by  
 St. Hil's Angels in Kent; and  
 previews the Edinburgh  
 Festival  
 4.45 Short Story: This Sentence  
 Does Not Consist of Eight  
 Words, by Michael Carson  
 Read by David Horowitz  
 5.00 PM with Brian Hanrahan and  
 Wendy Austin 5.50 Shipping  
 Forecast 5.55 Weather  
 6.00 Six O'Clock News  
 6.30 A Hack Goes West: Dylan

|              |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| <b>M</b>     | <b>7.05 The</b> |
| <b>diary</b> | <b>7.20 Pic</b> |

matthieu Bate, K 578; Royal PO  
of Cologne (Bottle, soprano);  
Britten (Four Sea Interludes,  
Peter Grimes; London)  
1.20 **19th Century Orchestral**  
(Remembrances: Under  
Stewart Bedford); Barber  
(Remembrances: The Tortoise  
and the Hare; Christy; and  
The Immortal (Planned in E  
flat, Op 44; Peter Frank;,  
Lizard) Quartet)  
1.20 **20th Century Orchestra in**  
Zurich under Andrew Davis  
performs Strauss (Don Juan),  
Vaughan Williams (Symphony  
No 6 in E minor), Britten  
(Violin Concerto in D;  
Christian Tetzlaff)  
1.00 **Classical**  
1.05 **Clarinet, Violin and Piano:**  
Mark van de Wiel, clarinet;  
Krzysztof Zmijewski, violin;  
Julian Jacobson, piano,  
perform Milhaud (Suite, Le  
Voyageur sans baguette);  
Debussy (Clarinet Solo);  
Janáček (Violin Sonata); Bartók  
(Contrasts) in C  
1.10 **20th Century Orchestras of the**  
World: Junge Deutsche  
Philharmonie under Michael  
Guthrie (Symphony No 1,  
Symphony No 25 in G minor,  
K 183); Lutosławski (Cello  
Concerto, Yo Ma);  
Scriabin (Symphony No 9 in  
C, Great)  
1.00 **Turning Up:** Rachel Gough,  
co-principal bassoonist of the

Andersen Museum in Odense;  
8.55 Musorgsky, orch  
Dvorak (Songs and Poems of  
Death); Prokofiev (Nativity,  
Alexander Nevsky)  
9.55 **Music and Lyrics**  
● **CHOICE:** Robert Cushman's  
series on the musical features  
the work of Stephen  
Sondheim, beginning with his  
not very happy collaboration  
with Richard Rodgers. Does  
anyone remember *Do I Hear a  
Waltz?*, a respectable plot,  
notes Cushman, but  
containing a lot of their best  
work. He goes on to discuss  
Company, Follies and, most  
particularly, Into the Woods.  
Leslie Smith, an unrepentant  
hit in Follies, sings: "Could I  
Leave You?" and the  
performance closes with the  
finale of Into the Woods,  
"Children Will Listen." As  
always with anything this  
enjoyable, the time passes in a  
flash.  
10.40 **A Sorcerer's Century,**  
presented by Anthony Bonston.  
Sorcerer (Le Jardin Parturme:  
Yvonne Solomon, piano; Piano  
Sonata No 1, Marc-André  
Harnelin, piano)  
11.30 **News**  
11.35-12.35am **Composers of the**  
20th Century: Donatoni  
from Maria Padilla, Don  
Pasquale (Act 2 complete) and  
Don Sebastiano (v)

|      |  |       |   |
|------|--|-------|---|
| 0.00 | Daily Service (LW only)  | 8.05  | Call to Account: British Telecom. Donald MacCormick chairs a public grilling from Birmingham's Labour Party.  |
| 0.15 | The Bible (LW only): Rosemary Leach reads 'The Letter of James'  | 8.10  | Michael Birt, deputy chairman of BT, joins Bill Wigglesworth, Ofcom's director general, to answer queries and complain from the audience                          |
| 0.30 | Woman's Hour visits Sanctuary, a women's night club in Birmingham: examines the role of gameshow hostesses; and reports on girls, incl 11,000 News   | 8.50  | Step Press, with John Diamond   |
| 0.30 | Natural History Programme, presented by Jessica Holm   | 9.15  | Kaleidoscope: The Ethics of Decision-making. Paul Allen talks to the makers of Panorama, the makers of Action, the makers of World and 40 Minutes (s) (r)         |
| 0.40 | You and Your Years, with Sally Hawkins   | 9.45  | The Letter from America by Les Cooke and the Weather  |
| 2.25 | The Gardening Quiz: With the Gardeners' Questionnaire. Painting and Irene Thomas are joined by Prue Lettis, Leslie Crowther, Mary O'Hara and Dr. Jonathan. Guest Commentator Stefan Buczacki (s) 12.55 Weather | 10.00 | The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig (s)  |
| 3.00 | The World at One, with Nick Clarke   | 10.45 | A Book at Bedtime: Lucky Jim by Kingsley Amis. Read by Martin Jarvis (10/12) (r)  |
| 4.40 | The Archers (s) (r) 1.55 Sports News   | 11.00 | When Harry Met... Al: Comedy with John Peel and Alastair McGowan (s)  |
| 5.00 | News: Classic Serial: Claudius, by Robert Graves. Part of a three-part radio serial presented by Eric Seward (s) (r)   | 11.25 | The Financial Week, with Heather Payton   |
| 5.30 | Special Assignment: A Good Read: Edward Blishen interviews Bernard Williams and Christopher Sinclair-Stimson to choose four paperback (s)  | 11.50 | Hello Hello: Paul Donovan delves into the BBC sound archives to illustrate how the programmes of the past entertained themselves on to the airwaves (1/2) (s) (r) |
| 6.00 | News   | 12.00 | The Weather 12.25 Shipping 12.45 World Service (LW only)  |

REPERCUSSIONS: 0.00-0.15: 1053k/37/285M; 1059k/36/275m; FM-97.6-99.8. 0.15-0.30: 1053k/37/285M; 1059k/36/275m; FM-97.6-99.8. 0.30-0.40: 1053k/37/285M; 1059k/36/275m; FM-97.6-99.8. 0.40-2.25: 1053k/37/285M; 1059k/36/275m; FM-97.6-99.8. 2.25-3.00: 1053k/37/285M; 1059k/36/275m; FM-97.6-99.8. 3.00-4.40: 1053k/37/285M; 1059k/36/275m; FM-97.6-99.8. 4.40-5.00: 1053k/37/285M; 1059k/36/275m; FM-97.6-99.8. 5.00-5.30: 1053k/37/285M; 1059k/36/275m; FM-97.6-99.8. 5.30-6.00: 1053k/37/285M; 1059k/36/275m; FM-97.6-99.8.

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World Service: MW 648kHz/463m.